

The University of Iowa Law Library: The First 141 Years, 1868–2009

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Introduction: University Commitment to Law Library Excellence

Since at least 1900, the University of Iowa Central Administration has been committed to making the Law School Library a special center of national excellence. More recently, in 1985, the University of Iowa Central Administration (Provost Richard Remington in consultation with President James Freedman) made a strategic decision relating to libraries at the University that reaffirmed this long-time commitment to the excellence of the Law Library. They understood that all libraries in this University were not and could not realistically aspire to be the best in the nation because it would take many, many millions of additional recurring dollars which were not available in Iowa for the entire library resources at the University of Iowa to catch up with the very best libraries in American universities. However, the Central Administration was unwilling to give up on nationally recognized outstanding excellence for any part of the library resources of this University. In viewing the alternatives available and the likelihood of success in making some part of the library resources on this campus nationally recognized as among the very best in the nation, and at a cost the University could reasonably afford, the University Central Administration focused upon the Law Library as a place in which it could invest on a continuing basis an additional amount of financial resources that it could afford and receive a high return on that investment.

Provost Remington and President Freedman articulated several reasons for choosing the Law Library for such special University excellence. Those reasons included the fact that the quality of university law libraries in this country had always been separately ranked and evaluated; the information resources at the University of Iowa Law Library had always been among the thirteen to fifteen

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best among law school libraries in the country; the quality of the Law Library had always been central to the quality of the law school and its programs and the inside and outside perceptions of the quality of this law school; external constituencies like the lawyers, judges, and state government officials in the state heavily used and very much appreciated and supported the presence of a great law library at the University; and it would take a relatively small amount of money to make the Law Library one of the very best law school libraries in the country.

As part of this 1985 decision by the University Central Administration to make the Iowa Law Library one of the very best law school libraries in the United States and at a cost it could afford, Provost Remington and President Freedman also actively supported the appointment as the head of the Law Library of a senior, chaired, regular law school faculty member and accomplished scholar who was not a professional law librarian, Professor Arthur Earl Bonfield. They did so because Professor Bonfield shared the exalted ambition of the Central Administration for the future of the Law Library and seemed willing and able, if appointed head of the Law Library (which would be renamed Associate Dean for Research), to move forward vigorously to realize that ambition.

As evidence of the Central Administration's serious, active, and firm financial commitment to the realization of its lofty ambition to make the Iowa Law School Library one of the very best in the country, it decided in 1985 to make two on-going allocations of funds to the Law Library. First, the Central Administration decided to allocate to the Law Library each year, on a continuing basis, twenty percent of all additional funds it allocated for the acquisition of new library information resources at the University that year. Second, it agreed to pay out of Central Administration funds, on a continuing basis, two months' salary to the Law Library Head each summer.

The University investments in the Law Library during the years subsequent to 1985 paid rich dividends because by 2009 the University of Iowa Law Library had one of the two largest law school library collections of information resources in the United States, as measured by the number of volumes and microform volume equivalents in its collection, and more importantly, by the number of separate individually cataloged different titles in its collection in all formats—print, microform, and digital. Under the leadership of Associate Dean Bonfield, the Law Library accomplished that goal by relentlessly and single mindedly pursuing strategies that placed the acquisition of information resources related to the law and legal systems first among all of its priorities and goals. In doing so, the University created a resource, at a relatively small cost, that is nationally recognized as one of the very best in the country.

The Old Capitol Years, 1868–1910

While in Des Moines, the Iowa Law School, founded in Des Moines in 1866 by Judges George G. Wright and Chester C. Cole, utilized the resources of the State Law Library. When the Law School was transferred to Iowa City in 1868 to become the Law Department of the State University, it needed its own library. This library became the University of Iowa Law Library. Since September 1868, four different buildings and many dedicated librarians have sheltered the Law Library and its ever growing collection. This chapter will trace the history of the University of Iowa Law Library from its birth in 1868 to the present day.

The Facilities

On February 8, 1868, the Iowa Legislature authorized the establishment of the Law Department of the State University. The Board of Regents initially set aside one subdivided room in the Old Capitol for the Law Department and its library. During the forty-two years of residence in the Old Capitol, the Law Library relocated numerous times, always on the second floor of the building, gaining a little space with each move.

Beginning in September 1868, the entire Law Department was housed in the former House of Representatives Chamber on the second floor of the Old Capitol. In order to accommodate the Law Department, the old House Chamber had been divided into three rooms. The largest room, two-thirds of the House Chamber, was the lecture room for the Department. The remaining one-third was divided into two, allowing one room for the use of the faculty of the department and one for the Law Library.¹

In 1868, the Law Library, equipped with second-hand tables and chairs,² was a fairly comfortable reading room. As enrollment grew, however, the Law Library became very uncomfortable for the patrons. The faculty, in its 1872 Annual Report to the Board of Regents, voiced their concerns about the lack of space in the Law Library, writing:

Great inconvenience has been felt all through the past year from the lack of sufficient room for students reading and studying there. . . . [A]lready the room is so crowded during study hours as to be very uncomfortable to those who use it, and yet does not accommodate much more than half of those who are entitled to its privileges.³

1. Margaret N. Keyes, *Old Capitol: Portrait of an Iowa Landmark* 28 (1988).

2. Millard W. Hansen, *Early History of the College of Law, State University of Iowa: 1865–1884*, 30 *Iowa L. Rev.* 31, 43 (1944).

3. William G. Hammond, *Record Book of the Law Department of the State University of*

Although class sizes continued to grow, the only relief for the Law Library came at the expense of other elements of the Law Department. Recognizing that the small room that housed the law library could barely hold a quarter of the class in 1875,⁴ the faculty shifted part of the collection into the law lecture room, creating a reading room for students when classes were not in session.



Reading Room, Old Capitol Law Library 1905.

This reading room was only a temporary solution, given that the enrollment in the Law Department and the Law Library collection were continually growing. By 1881, the Law Department, in addition to outgrowing the Law Library facilities, had also outgrown its lecture room. The Report of the President of the University to the Board of Regents on October 1, 1881, stated that the lecture room which could not accommodate one hundred students was being used for nearly one hundred and fifty students.⁵ The President advocated finding a more suitable place for the Law Library so that the lecture room could be enlarged.⁶ The opportunity for expansion came in 1882 when the General Library, which had also outgrown its allocated space, was removed from the Old Senate Chamber in the Old Capitol.

Iowa 169 (June 1872) (unpublished manuscript in the University of Iowa Law Library Rare Book Room).

4. *Id.* at 286.

5. University of Iowa, *Report of the State University of Iowa, October 1, 1881*, reprinted in [1882] 2 Iowa Legislative Documents, at 68 (1882).

6. *Id.*

The University then allocated a portion of the vacated space, the west half of the Old Senate Chamber, to the Law Department for its new library facilities. This permitted both the Law Library and the Law lecture room to expand.⁷

Shifting the Law Library into half of the Old Senate Chamber created enough space for the collection and the patrons for eight years. By 1890, the Law Library had, once again, outgrown its allocated space. The university newspaper, the *Vidette-Reporter*, announced that “[t]he law library room was no longer large enough to accommodate the students using it”⁸ To alleviate the stress on the facility, the University approved the installation of a door between the Senior lecture room, located in the east half of the Old Senate Chamber and the Law Library.⁹ This alteration recreated library conditions prior to the 1882 move by creating a reading room for students outside of lecture hours. While only a temporary solution, using the Senior Law lecture room as an after-hours reading room was a successful tactic for creating more space, so successful that the following year, in 1891, the faculty converted the Senior lecture room into a full-time “reading room and library for text-books.”¹⁰ Therefore, from 1891 to 1910 when the Law Library moved to its new facilities in the Law Building, the Law Library occupied the entire Old Senate Chamber.

Even with this addition, more space was desperately needed. In 1897, the President of the University warned the Board of Regents about the inadequate facilities of the Law School: “The reading-room and library are altogether too small to accommodate the students in attendance, and there is only one room available for all the lectures and recitations. No further growth of the department can be expected until it is provided with more ample quarters.”¹¹ Although the Board discussed options for increasing the facilities, the only relief for the Law Library resulted from the 1903 renovation of the Old Senate Chamber during which the partition between the Library and the reading room was removed and a gallery was constructed around the entire room, creating additional shelf and study space.¹² By the time the Board of Regents and the Iowa General Assembly finally committed to the construction of a Law Building in 1906, the College of Law was “crowded and cramped beyond all decency. . . [and had] the poorest accommodations of any professional school in the University”¹³

7. M.L. Ferson, *Law Library Always in Capitol Building*, 0, April 7, 1909, at 9.

8. *Vidette-Reporter*, Sept. 20, 1890, at 1.

9. *Vidette-Reporter*, Sept. 20, 1890, at 1.

10. *Vidette-Reporter*, Sept. 29, 1891, at 2.

11. University of Iowa, *Report of the State University of Iowa, October 15, 1897, reprinted in* [1898] 2 Iowa Legislative Documents, at 27.

12. Keyes, *supra* note 1, at 32, 34.

13. University of Iowa, *Twenty-Fifth Report of the Board of Regents to the Governor and*

During its forty-two years in the Old Capitol, the Law Library, driven by an ever increasing collection and student body, filled every inch of whatever space was allocated for its use. After beginning in one-sixth of the Old House Chamber, the collection and study space gradually spilled over into the adjoining lecture room. Shifting the Law Library to half of the Old Senate Chamber provided some growth room but, in time, the library once again looked for additional space, converting a lecture room into a full-time reading room. From 1891 to 1910, the Law Library, having devoured all of the available space, was confined to the Old Senate Chamber and was forced to find space within the library facilities, using renovation to alleviate the pressure on the facilities.

The Collection

Creating a collection with sufficient resources to meet the research needs of the students was one of the greatest challenges faced by the fledgling University of Iowa Law School. Insufficient funding plagued the Law Library throughout its residence in the Old Capitol; although the initial appropriation provided a strong nucleus, the Law Library struggled to not only increase the size of the collection but also maintain its currency. Despite the financial difficulties, the collection grew through acquisitions and gifts and, by 1910, was ranked as one of the best law school libraries in the country.

The circular issued by the Faculty of the Iowa Law School in August 1868 to advertise the transfer of the school to Iowa City stated that “[p]rovisions have been made by the trustees for the immediate purchase of a law library, sufficiently large for all the wants of students during the course, which will be selected with special reference to their instruction, and devoted exclusively to the use of the school.”¹⁴ The Legislature appropriated \$20,000 for the University in 1868; the trustees set aside \$7,600 for the Law Department, \$2,000 of which was used to purchase books for the Law Library.¹⁵

With the initial appropriation of \$2,000 in 1868, the Faculty purchased 525 volumes.¹⁶ These purchases were joined on the shelves by materials donated by the State and individuals, volumes transferred from the General Library, and sets loaned to the Law Library by Chancellor Hammond and members of the Iowa City Bar.¹⁷ For the first year of operation, students had access to a total of

the Thirty-Second General Assembly, 1905-1906, reprinted in [1907] 3 Iowa Legislative Documents, at 24.

14. *Law Department of the Iowa State University: Its History, Organization and Plan of Study*, [] W. Jurist [] (1868).

15. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 49.

16. *Id.* at 78.

17. *Id.*

1,164 volumes.¹⁸ Realizing that the content and size of the collection would affect enrollment in the new Department, the faculty urged the Board of Trustees to appropriate another \$2,000 for the Law Library in 1870.¹⁹ Only a fraction of this sum was provided for the expansion of the Law Library collection.

For the first decade in the existence of the Law Library, the faculty's annual report to the Board of Regents contained increasingly bitter pleas for better funding for the Law Library. During this time, the Law Library was the primary expense for which the faculty requested assistance from the Board of Regents. The assistance received, however, was barely sufficient to maintain the sets the Law Library had already purchased, much less increase the collection.²⁰ By 1875, the faculty reported that the collection was still missing reporters from nearly half the states and most of the treatises, then seven years old, were "worn out by constant use" or "superceded by later works or revised editions."²¹

The Board of Regents seemed determined to give the law students only that for which they paid.²² Even when the legislature specifically provided for the Law Library, the Law Library saw only a fraction of the amount appropriated. For example, the 1870 appropriation from the General Assembly for the University included a provision for \$3,000 or \$4,000 for law books;²³ the Law Library actually received \$700.²⁴ By 1878, the faculty, examining the amounts specified for Law Department use in General Assembly appropriations to the University, determined that at least \$10,000 of these funds actually benefited other departments.²⁵

The faculty warned that, in order for the law school to maintain its reputation of excellence, the Institution would have to spend the money to enhance the Law Library.²⁶ After all, they argued, the library would be "a permanent investment which would not pass away with the year in which it is made . . . and a good library would be the strongest of all inducements to students and a sure means of giving permanent character and prosperity to the school."²⁷ Insufficient funding meant the University Law Library could not provide students with an up-to-date, sizable collection so that, when another law school opened in Des Moines in 1876,

18. *Id.* at 77.

19. *Id.* at 78.

20. *Id.* at 446.

21. *Id.* at 285.

22. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 288.

23. *Id.* at 105.

24. Hansen, *supra* note 2, at 44.

25. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 444–446.

26. *Id.*

27. *Id.* at 294.

“[s]everal of the students who went to Des Moines gave as a decisive reason for their preference the opportunity of using the State Library.”²⁸

The Law Library’s inability to increase access to reports actually decreased the resources available to students as the members of the Iowa City Bar, believing that the Law Library would complete its collection of American reports within a reasonable time of opening, began to withdraw the sets they had lent to the library.²⁹ By 1875, the faculty informed the Regents that the Iowa City Bar members who had been kind enough to loan the school several sets of State Reports were running out of patience “and the long delay in . . . [completing the collection of American reports] has already led to the withdrawal of several sets and may soon lose us the rest.”³⁰ The next year, the faculty reported that several hundred of the remaining loaned volumes had been withdrawn from the shelves.³¹

The early years in the history of the University of Iowa Law Library were extremely tight in terms of both collection size and acquisitions budget. The able stewardship of Chancellor William G. Hammond, however, allowed the Law Library to flourish. In order to make the most of the slim appropriations granted by the Board of Trustees, Hammond made numerous trips to Chicago to insure better deals for the items purchased.³² Hammond often used his own funds to increase the holdings of the library. For example, when one of the Iowa City attorneys gave notice that he would withdraw his Connecticut Reports unless he could sell them to the school, Hammond bought the set and added it to the collection so that the students would have continued access.³³ Hammond also permitted students to use his personal collection which contained volumes on civil law, the history of the common law, and foreign and comparative law resources which Hammond, believing students should have access to such materials, purchased for his own collection when the Law Library did not have sufficient funds to purchase new resources.³⁴ Although he left the University of Iowa in 1881, William G. Hammond continued to support the University of Iowa Law Library; before his death in 1894, Hammond requested that his book collection, over twelve hundred volumes on civil law and the history of the common law, be given to the University of Iowa Law Library.³⁵

28. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 346.

29. *Id.* at 286.

30. *Id.* at 286.

31. *Id.* at 345.

32. *Id.* at 78.

33. *Id.* at 103.

34. *Id.*

35. Frank H. Noble, *Catalogue of the Hammond Historical Law Collection in the Law Library*



Chancellor William G. Hammond, donor of the Law Library's valuable "Hammond Collection."

The remaining thirty years in the Old Capitol were very similar to the first ten years. Inadequate funding continued to be the greatest challenge faced by the Law Library. The acquisitions budget fluctuated yearly, exceeding \$2,000 only in the final academic year in the Old Capitol, 1909–1910. Financially, the leanest year for the Law Library was 1897–1898 due to the 1897 fire in the General Library which destroyed 23,227 books. Although “the Law Library, being in a separate building, escaped destruction in the fire, . . . [i]ts former appropriation of \$1,250 per annum was reduced . . . to \$500,” forcing the Law Library to abandon upkeep on many sets of reporters.³⁶ Although the acquisitions budget rebounded the following year, the annual appropriations were never sufficient to both maintain the currency of the collection and provide for any substantial growth.

Despite limited funds, the Law Library was growing through both acquisitions and gifts. Just two years into its existence, the Law Library had increased the number of volumes on its shelves to 2,500. It contained approximately 4,000 volumes by 1890, including the 1,200 volume Hammond Historical Law Col-

of the State University of Iowa, at [i] (1895).

36. University of Iowa, *Report of the State University of Iowa, October 15, 1897*, reprinted in [1898] 2 Iowa Legislative Documents, at 18.

lection and an 1888 gift of several volumes of Iowa state documents, including House and Senate Journals, from T.S. Parvin, the first Librarian for the State of Iowa.³⁷ Over 5,000 volumes were added in the next decade, bringing the size of the collection by the turn of the century to 9,650 volumes. When the Law Library moved to its new home in 1910, it contained approximately 15,000 volumes and ranked among the best law school libraries in the country.³⁸

The initial appropriation for the Law Library purchased a strong nucleus for the collection which was enhanced through the generosity of the Iowa City Bar and the chancellor of the department. Although the faculty argued that developing the Law Library collection was critical to the success of the school and urged the Iowa General Assembly and the Board of Regents to provide sufficient funds to increase the collection, the amounts appropriated during the Old Capitol years were often insufficient to cover upkeep for sets already on the shelves much less expand available titles. In spite of its financial limitations, the University of Iowa Law Library provided a valuable collection for the use of its students.

Personnel

The University of Iowa Law Library has always been affiliated with the College of Law; at no time in its history was it ever administered through the University Library system. During the Law Library's years in the Old Capitol, the faculty of the College of Law assumed administrative responsibility for the Library, hiring student librarians to perform most of the day-to-day functions of the library. Eventually, full-time librarians were hired to assume control of daily library tasks and supervise the student librarians.

In 1870, the faculty of the Law Department wrote: "The Library of the [Department] is a most important means of instruction. Indeed our whole method is founded on a free use of the library by all the students in the course of every day's study"³⁹ For this reason, the faculty "devoted constant and especial attention to the Library of the Department."⁴⁰ This attention included choosing the resources for the collection, establishing regulations for the use of the library,⁴¹ teaching the students how to fully utilize its resources,⁴² and maintaining order within its walls.⁴³

37. Vidette-Reporter, Oct. 27, 1888, at 6.

38. Ferson, *supra* note 7, at 9.

39. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 103.

40. *Id.* at 77.

41. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Faculty Minutes*, 1 (Sept. 19, 1896) (unpublished manuscript in the University of Iowa Law Library Rare Book Room).

42. Vidette-Reporter, Sept. 29, 1883, at 6.

43. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 170.

For the first twenty–three years, daily tasks, such as opening and closing the library and retrieving textbooks, which were located in closed stacks, for the students, were performed by student librarians, two or three students whom the faculty hired from each class. Instead of receiving a salary, the student librarians received a tuition break, paying only half the tuition that other members of the class paid.⁴⁴ The faculty was very supportive of hiring students as librarians during the early years because the tuition break allowed individuals to attend classes who might not otherwise have been able to afford law school.⁴⁵ Other students recognized the importance of the position as well. The law editors for the *Vidette–Reporter* wrote in 1885: “This not being a very lucrative position, is, nevertheless, worthy of consideration; and the gentlemen chosen should, and no doubt do, accept the position with a due sense of the responsibilities connected with the trust.”⁴⁶

Having students in charge of the library, however, did create some problems. Staff turnover was a regular occurrence. Given that the law course required only one year from 1868 to 1884, the faculty had to appoint new student librarians at least once a year. In fact, it was not uncommon for the faces of the student librarians to change in the middle of the academic year.⁴⁷ Once the course expanded to two years in 1884, student librarians appointed during their Junior year often stayed on staff during their Senior year which did alleviate some of the turnover problems.

Using student librarians also meant that there were times when the Law Library did not have an on–duty supervisor. Although the library was open for most of the day, the student librarians had to attend lectures with the rest of the students. This left the library unattended during class periods. In 1891, the university newspaper reported that:

[W]hile both classes were attending the lecture in their respective halls the other morning, some contemptible fellow entered the [law] library, and, no doubt thought it an excellent opportunity to play what he would call an extremely *cute* trick, which consisted in rudely throwing books from the shelves and heaping them in piles upon the tables.⁴⁸

In addition to pranksters from outside the department, the student librarians

44. University of Iowa, *Catalogue of the Iowa State University at Iowa City for 1868–1869*, at 56–57.

45. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 106.

46. *Vidette–Reporter*, Sept. 26, 1885, at 2.

47. *See Vidette–Reporter*, April 17, 1886, at 8.

48. *Vidette–Reporter*, Feb. 28, 1891, at 6.

also had little control over their fellow law students. Patrons complained about the defacing of books,⁴⁹ the misappropriation of books,⁵⁰ and the boisterousness of the students who, at times, believed the library was an “informal caucus” or “club room” rather than a study area.⁵¹

In response to these types of difficulties, the faculty began to advocate the hiring of a full-time librarian beginning in 1872. They wrote that “there should be a permanent librarian appointed, with pay sufficient to secure his constant services, and authority enough to maintain perfect order and enforce strict library rules.”⁵² By 1873, the faculty added preservation of the resources to the duties a full-time librarian could perform. They argued that a full-time librarian “could have a constant oversight of the books and would probably save the entire amount of his pay to the institution in the diminution of wear and tear, losses of books, etc.”⁵³

The faculty’s pleas for a full-time librarian went unanswered until 1891. During the 1890–1891 academic year, the student librarians had very little control over the conduct of the Law Library’s patrons. Constant complaints about misuse of the Law Library appeared in the University newspaper during the fall of 1890. Individuals who wished to study had to contend with missing volumes⁵⁴ and loud, unruly conversations.⁵⁵ The spring semester brought no improvement in library conditions as students complained: “The library still remains a place of uproar and confusion. It is an imposition that those who come here and pay their money for its advantages should be practically deprived thereof by a few conceited swells.”⁵⁶ After this year of turmoil, even the students began to endorse a full-time librarian who would have the authority to preserve order in the library.⁵⁷

Finally, in the fall of 1891, the Law Department hired its first full-time librarian, Mrs. Jennie L. Wilson, a recent graduate of the Department, to maintain order in the Law Library;⁵⁸ general oversight and collection development, however, remained with the faculty.⁵⁹ The appointment of a full-time librarian, in addition

49. Vidette–Reporter, Oct. 6, 1888, at 6.

50. Vidette–Reporter, Nov. 1, 1890, at 6.

51. Vidette–Reporter, Dec. 13, 1890, at 6.

52. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 170.

53. *Id.* at 207.

54. Vidette–Reporter, Nov. 1, 1890, at 6. *See also* Vidette–Reporter, Dec. 13, 1890, at 6.

55. Vidette–Reporter, Oct. 11, 1890, at 6.

56. Vidette–Reporter, March 21, 1891, at 6.

57. Vidette–Reporter, April 25, 1891, at 4.

58. Vidette–Reporter, Oct. 15, 1891, at 3.

59. *See Faculty Minutes, supra* note 41, at 21 (April 23, 1897). *See also Faculty Minutes, supra* note 41, at 68 (Dec. 2, 1898).



Jennie Wilson, L.L.B. 1891, was the school's first full-time law librarian.

to the student librarians the Department continued to hire, must have brought peace to the Law Library because the complaints in the student newspaper ceased entirely. Hiring recent graduates did not significantly alleviate the staff turnover problem, however. Each full-time librarian remained for a period of one to two years, for the most part, before leaving to take positions elsewhere. The longest term for any of the law librarians during the Old Capitol years was eight years, from 1902 to 1910, when M.L. Ferson supervised the Law Library and in 1910, moved the Law Library into its new home in the first building devoted entirely to the law school.

During the Old Capitol years, therefore, the law school faculty, responsible for general oversight, collection development, and policy decisions, provided the only constant supervision of the Law Library. The faces of individuals hired to assist the faculty were always changing. From 1868 to 1891, these individuals were students, granted a tuition break in exchange for their services in the Law Library. Over time, the faculty discovered that student librarians were unable to adequately protect the collection and preserve the peace and, beginning in 1891, full-time librarians, assisted by two or three student librarians, were appointed to restore order and oversee the collection.

Public Services

Providing adequate access to the collection has always been an important goal for the University of Iowa Law Library. During the first forty years of its existence,

the Law Library accomplished this goal through generous hours, open stacks, and circulation policies. The Old Capitol years also saw the creation of library services intended to reduce the financial burden to students attending law school by decreasing the cost of textbooks.

Generous hours of operation have always been offered by the University of Iowa Law Library. From the beginning, the library was open at least forty hours a week during the academic terms. The hours were weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.⁶⁰ In contrast, the General Library of the University, housed in the former Senate Chamber, had extremely limited hours during the late 1860s and early 1870s, open only one hour per weekday.⁶¹ When possible, the law faculty was also flexible in extending the Law Library's hours. For example, the faculty arranged for the Law Library to be open during vacations starting in 1881 to benefit students who did not return home for the holidays.⁶² The 1891 installation of new gas fixtures permitted the Law Library to extend its hours into the evening⁶³ and by 1896, the Library was also open on Saturday mornings.

Generous hours were not the only beneficial service provided by the Law Library. Unlike the General Library which kept its entire collection in closed stacks, the Law Library maintained most of its collection in open stacks allowing students to find their own materials; textbooks were the only items librarians had to retrieve for patrons.⁶⁴ This system was important for law students because “[a]ccess to the shelves allow[ed] . . . [law students] to become familiar with the various sets of reports and other legal literature.”⁶⁵ Even undergraduate students, noticing the advantages of the Law Library's open shelves and reading room, argued in 1871 that “[t]he number of students to be found . . . [in the Law Library] at any time busily engaged in perusing and examining . . . books of reference shows very clearly how beneficial such an arrangement would be in our general library.”⁶⁶

Study space was essential in the Law Library because books did not circulate. Students could borrow books for moot court or lectures if necessary but the items had to be returned to the library immediately following the exercise.⁶⁷ Over

60. University of Iowa, *Catalogue of the Iowa State University at Iowa City for 1868–1869*, at 54.

61. *See* 3 University Reporter 42 (1871)

62. *See* 13 University Reporter 74 (1881)

63. Vidette–Reporter, Oct. 15, 1891, at 1.

64. Ferson, *supra* note 7, at 13.

65. *Id.*

66. 3 University Reporter 42 (1871).

67. These rules, circa 1869, were found on a bookplate inside a volume with the accession number of 86. Unfortunately, few, if any of these bookplates remain; as the books were rebound, the original rules of the Law Library were lost.

the years, the faculty did create some further exceptions to the general non-circulation policy. Beginning in 1890, the faculty permitted students to check books out overnight, a policy that was “duly appreciated by the students.”⁶⁸ New rules adopted in 1896 included not only overnight checkouts for students but also three day privileges for members of the Iowa City Bar.⁶⁹ To ensure access for students, however, any resources necessary for the current lecture topic were barred from circulation.

In addition to the general library policies, librarians also administered two textbooks programs beneficial to the students. The first program was the renting of textbooks. In the 1869 report to the Board of Trustees, the faculty asked for a special appropriation to purchase sets of the texts required for the course for the purpose of renting them to students who could not afford to purchase them.⁷⁰ Although the faculty did not receive a separate appropriation, they used \$500 from the book budget to purchase several sets of nine of the textbooks.⁷¹ Students who wished to rent textbooks applied to the Law Librarian, who accepted applications on a first-come basis. The cost to rent the \$50 to \$60 textbooks in 1870 was \$10 for the entire course or \$5 per term, of which there were three per year.⁷² Renting textbooks was an enormous success with demand for the service far exceeding the supply of textbooks.⁷³ The Law Library staff continued to administer the textbook rental program until it was abandoned in 1924.⁷⁴

The second beneficial program administered by the Law Library was selling textbooks to the students. Beginning in 1892, students contacted the law librarians to order textbooks for the law course.⁷⁵ An editorial in the February 15, 1900, *Vidette-Reporter* stated: “The book stores in the city. . . have repeatably refused to handle the books at the prices quoted by the librarian. This savings to students in the prices of text-books that are costly at best is one of the excellent services of this department of the University.”⁷⁶ Apparently, however, the system did have some problems. In the *Vidette-Reporter* on February 8, 1900, the junior law students accused the librarian of withholding the use of the library’s textbooks in order to increase his commission from selling books.⁷⁷ The faculty, after a careful inves-

68. *Vidette-Reporter*, Oct. 11, 1890, at 6.

69. *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41, at Exhibit 1 (Sept. 19, 1896).

70. Hammond, *supra* note 3, at 79–80.

71. *Id.* at 106.

72. *Id.*

73. *Id.*

74. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Announcement of the College of Law, 1922–1923*, at 13. See also University of Iowa, *Announcement of the College of Law, 1923–1924*, at 9.

75. Law Department, University of Iowa, *Announcement 1892–1893*, at 13.

76. *Vidette-Reporter*, Feb. 15, 1900, at 2.

77. *Vidette-Reporter*, Feb. 8, 1900, at 1.

tigation, decided that the allegations were unfounded⁷⁸ and the system by which students ordered their textbooks from the law librarians remained unchanged until it was discontinued in 1914.⁷⁹

Overall, the public service goals of the Law Library and its staff during the Old Capitol years were to establish policies which would provide patrons with the greatest possible access to resources. Within the library setting, access was created through generous hours of operation and open stacks. Limited circulation opportunities ensured that students would have continuous access to the resources on current lecture topics while allowing attorneys to use materials outside of the Law Library. Library staff also helped students acquire textbooks through programs which rented or sold the required texts at discount prices. The methods employed by the Law Library increased the ability of its patrons to find and use resources.

The Law Building, 1910–1961

The Facilities

After forty–two years of cramped quarters, the oldest professional school at the University of Iowa finally moved into its own building, the Law Building, which is currently known as Gilmore Hall. The Law Library occupied the third floor of the Law Building from 1910 to 1961. As was the case in the Old Capitol, the Law Library gradually devoured all of the extra space in the Law Building, forcing the Law School to create space through remodeling and remote storage.

The 1910 move into the Law Building was much anticipated by the faculty and students of the University of Iowa College of Law. On April 7, 1909, the University newspaper, the *Daily Iowan*, ran a special issue on the Law College and its new building, then under construction. In one of the articles, Dean Charles N. Gregory, stressing the importance of the new building for library patrons, wrote:

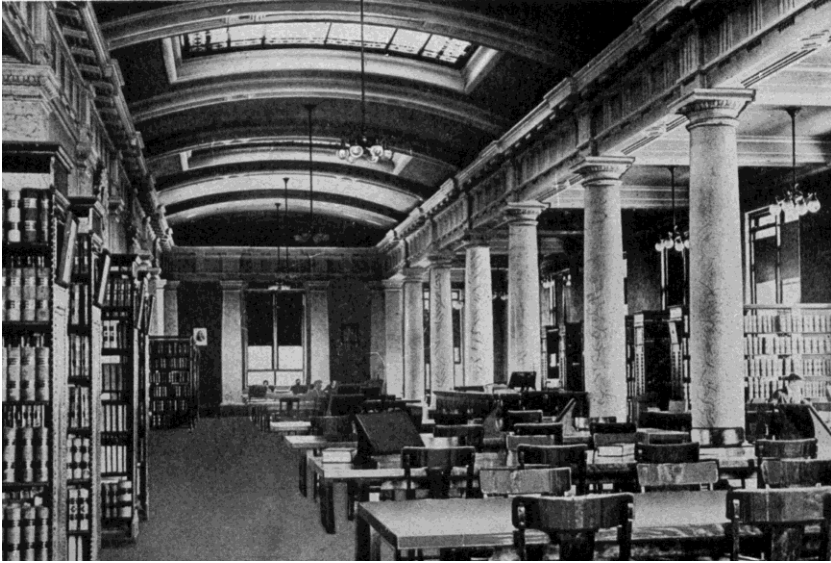
It means that the [law] library is to be vastly better lighted and ventilated and the books much more accessible to all who desire to use them and with surroundings more attractive and inviting and conveniences more adequate. Probably more than one–half of the books were, of necessity, in the old quarters reached only from the upper gallery where it was always a question which was the worst, the foul air or the dim light.⁸⁰

78. Vidette–Reporter, Feb. 13, 1900, at 1.

79. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Bulletin of the State University of Iowa College of Law: Special Announcement for 1913–1914*, at 21.

80. Charles N. Gregory, *New Building Means Much to Law School*, April 7, 1909, at 1.

Following the February 22, 1910, dedication of the Law Building, those bleak conditions would no longer plague the users of the Law Library. Dean Gregory, accepting the keys for the Faculty of Law, stated that in its new third floor home, the entire collection of the Law Library could be reached from the floor “where the sun shines by day and the electric light by night, [and] where, in a vaulted pillared hall, [the] air . . . is mechanically changed every few moments.”⁸¹



Law Library Reading Room in 1924.

In fact, the new Law Library was “one of the show spots of the University.”⁸² It occupied the entire third floor of the Law Building and, except for two small rooms, was a continuous combination stack and reading room. The library was a beautiful room with a “high-arched ceiling supported by two rows of massive scagliola columns,”⁸³ with stacks lining the walls and tables and chairs in the middle of the room. The other two rooms on the third floor comprised an office for the librarian and a consultation room, a new feature in libraries at that time, which permitted students who were working together on projects to discuss the project without disturbing the other patrons of the library.⁸⁴ The Law Library was one of the most spacious rooms on campus, so spacious that it was used as the location of the Law Banquet from 1913 to 1915.⁸⁵

81. *The Acceptance*, 7 iowa alumnus 152 (1910).

82. Gregory, *supra* note 80, at 4.

83. *The New Law Building and Its Dedication*, 7 iowa alumnus 92 (1910).

84. *Id.*

85. *See The Law Banquet*, 11 iowa alumnus 6 (1913–1914). *See also* 12 iowa alumnus

The Law Library, however, did not remain spacious for long. When built, the capacity of the Law Library was around 30,000 volumes, twice the size of the collection in 1910.⁸⁶ Although it had taken 42 years to accumulate the first 15,000 volumes, increases in the acquisitions budget during the late 1910s and early 1920s allowed the Law Library to double its collection in thirteen years; by 1923, the volume count exceeded the capacity of the Law Library by approximately 1,000 volumes.⁸⁷ In March 1924, construction on a second tier of stacks began.⁸⁸ After the month of construction, during which most of the books were stacked on the floor of the Library, the collection was rearranged and returned to the shelves so that the most-used resources were located in the bottom tier.⁸⁹ Theoretically, the construction created sufficient growth room for at least ten years by increasing the capacity of the library by 20,000.⁹⁰ The rapid acquisition rate during this period, however, insured that the shelves were “pretty well filled up” by March 1925.⁹¹

Following the 1924 construction, all of the available space on the third floor of the Law Building was being utilized. As the collection continued to grow, the Law School had to create additional space for the Law Library. In 1931, the Library began to spread to other floors of the building when partitions in classrooms were shifted, creating space for library stacks on the second floor.⁹² Starting in 1934, new law library space became available in the first and only dormitory for law students, the Law Commons, which opened in 1934 on the west side of the Iowa River. In October of that year, Helen Moylan, the law librarian, installed a branch library in the Law Commons main lounge.⁹³ During World War II, however, the Law Commons was turned over to the Army⁹⁴ and its library was temporarily dismantled.

Even while under Army control, the Law Commons played an important role for the library. The Law Library was crowding everything else out of the Law Building⁹⁵ and the Law Commons provided some storage space for infrequently

7 (1914–1915).

86. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Announcement 1923–1924*, at 4.

87. *Id.*

88. *Law Library*, 21 *iowa alumnus* 445 (1924).

89. *Id.*

90. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Eighth Annual Law Jubilee, March 10, 1925*, at 29.

91. *Id.*

92. *Law Building Adds Rooms by Changes*, *Daily Iowan*, April 18, 1931, at 2.

93. *Law Commons Residents Get a New Library in Main Lounge*, *Daily Iowan*, Oct. 20, 1934, at 5.

94. Letter from Percy Bordwell, Acting Dean of the University of Iowa College of Law, to Virgil Hancher, President of the University of Iowa (Oct. 15, 1943) at 2, in *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41.

95. Law School, University of Iowa, *Faculty Rule Book*, at 21 (1945).



Helen Moylan, University of Iowa Law Librarian 1922–1941.

used resources. In a 1945 letter to President Hancher discussing the spatial needs of the College of Law, Acting Dean Percy Bordwell wrote:

At the present time, storage space for the library . . . is had in the Law Commons [basement]. This is now exhausted and is not suited for books anyway because of the silver fish which infest the walls. There is an imperative need for more storage space for these purposes. . . . Probably the best solution would be a temporary storage building on the alley across from the parking lot. Some solution for the storage problem must be found.⁹⁶

Additional relief for the overflowing library was found in the late 1940s when Dean Ladd requested the use of two army barracks for storage and office space.⁹⁷ The barracks were placed on the vacant lot next to the law building and housed government documents, discontinued legal periodicals,⁹⁸ and part of the foreign law collection.⁹⁹ A third Quonset hut was added in the 1950s to store unprocessed gifts and books which had been damaged by leaking steam pipes in the basement of the Law Commons.¹⁰⁰

By 1953, the Law School desperately needed more space and the faculty discussed available options. One option, developed before the Law Commons was

96. Bordwell, *supra* note 94, at 2–3.

97. Law Library, University of Iowa., *Self–Study Report, 1976* [hereinafter *1976 Self–Study Report*], at 7.

98. *Id.*

99. Chart Showing Arrangement of Material in Law Library 3 (Feb. 16, 1948) (unpublished document, on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

100. *1976 Self–Study Report, supra* note 97, at 7.

built in 1934, was the creation of a Law Campus on the west side of the Iowa River. Originally, the plan called for three buildings, the Law Commons dormitory, a building for classrooms, and a separate building for the Law Library.¹⁰¹ Due to insufficient property, this plan for three separate buildings was later changed to a two–building plan which would include the Law Commons and a combination class–room and library building.¹⁰²

The faculty dismissed the law campus plan in October 1954 because it was unlikely to be completed in the foreseeable future. At that time, the Law Library had “already exceeded by nearly 20,000 volumes the capacity of the housing available in the present law building;” space limitations severely hindered legal research, and the faculty predicted that the Law Library would “require double the space . . . [then] allocated to the library in the law building” during the next two decades.¹⁰³ Believing that the legislature would be more likely to appropriate funds for an addition to the existing facilities than for a completely new building,¹⁰⁴ the faculty agreed that the “duly constituted building committee should give exclusive attention to developing plans for accommodating as many of the school’s needs as possible in an addition to the existing plant.”¹⁰⁵

Instead of an addition to the Law Building, the Iowa General Assembly approved an annex to the Law Commons in 1955. At that time, the Dean reported that “[p]lanning for the construction of the building is under way and it is hoped to have . . . it [the new law annex] completed for occupancy by the fall of 1957.”¹⁰⁶ The project, however, did not progress as quickly as anticipated. The blueprints were completed in 1957¹⁰⁷ but appropriations were insufficient to begin building the Law Annex and converting the Law Commons dormitory rooms into office space.¹⁰⁸ In 1958, Dean Ladd, informing the Bar that another substantial appropriation was necessary before construction could begin, stated:

101. Letter from Percy Bordwell, Acting Dean of the Iowa Law School, to Virgil M. Hancher, President of the University of Iowa (Oct. 15, 1943), in *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41.

102. *Id.*

103. Letter from S. Mason Ladd, Dean of the Iowa Law School, to Virgil M. Hancher, President of the University of Iowa (Oct. 27, 1954), in *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41.

104. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School to the Bar*, 39 Iowa L. Rev. 1, 14 (1953).

105. Letter from S. Mason Ladd, Dean of the Iowa Law School, to Virgil M. Hancher, President of the University of Iowa (Oct. 27, 1954), in *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41.

106. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School to the Bar*, 41 Iowa L. Rev. 1 (1955).

107. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School to the Bar*, 43 Iowa L. Rev. 1, 4 (1957).

108. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School to the Bar*, 44 Iowa L. Rev. 1, 5 (1958).

The need for this center is great. Our present building is inadequate to meet the demands of contemporary legal education. This situation is best illustrated by the plight of the library. As we try to increase the amount of individual student research, we are limited by a library reading room designed for the use of 125 students. Some 23,000 volumes of the library's collection are housed in worn-out temporary barracks adjacent to the law building.¹⁰⁹

Basically, the Law Library could only accommodate half of the enrolled students and the collection had overflowed into every available nook in the Law Building and three Quonset huts. In 1959, the legislature appropriated sufficient funds to complete the Law Annex; additional funds for renovation of the Law Commons and the equipment, such as shelves for the library, were provided later.¹¹⁰ The new building, the Iowa Law Center, was finally completed in the fall of 1961 and the Iowa Law School abandoned the Law Building, its home for fifty-one years.

In 1910, the Law School moved into the first building devoted entirely to its use. The facilities for the Law Library were beautiful and spacious, one of the "show spots of the University." At full capacity, the library would hold 30,000 volumes, a mark met after thirteen years in the Law Library. For the next thirty-eight years, the Law Library struggled to find sufficient space to house its collection, first by adding shelves within the Law Library and on other floors of the building, then through remote storage in the Law Commons dormitory and temporary army barracks. At the time the Law Library relocated to the new Iowa Law Center in 1961, only half of the enrolled students could find study space within the Law Library and over seventeen percent of the collection was housed outside of the Law Library facilities.

The Collection

The years 1910 to 1961 were very productive years in the growth of the collection. Within the new facilities, the third floor of the Law Building, the collection of the Law Library finally had room to expand and, although collection development continued to be hindered by an insufficient book budget for the first few years in the Law Building, the financial picture began to improve in the late 1910s. Better funding allowed the Law Library to expand its collection in quantity and in

109. *Id.*

110. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School to the Bar*, 45 Iowa L. Rev. 1, 10 (1959).

quality. The years in the Law Building witnessed a budding collection of briefs, of foreign law materials, and of resources produced in new formats.

When the Law Library moved into the Law Building in 1910, the collection contained approximately 15,000 volumes, consisting, for the most part, of textbooks, treatises, periodicals, and case reporters. Limited funds made expansion difficult; the book budget hovered around \$2,000 and before 1917, the Law Library did not even have a complete set of American reports.¹¹¹ In 1917, Professor Elmer A. Wilcox, who, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, administered the Law Library from 1913 to 1922, commented on the Library's financial situation in the *Iowa Law Bulletin*, writing: "The library of the College of Law, which already contains about 19,000 volumes, is being much enriched this year. The appropriations heretofore have been little more than adequate to keep up continuations and to keep abreast of current publications . . . Hereafter more adequate funds will be available."¹¹² The increases in the acquisition budget allowed the Law Library to eliminate many of the gaps in its collection. For example, the Law Library completed its collection of American reports, purchased state statutory compilations and session laws, and expanded its collection of reports from the British Commonwealth.¹¹³

The Law Library not only furnished patrons with an excellent collection for American and Commonwealth legal research but also was "unusually well equipped" for legal history research.¹¹⁴ In addition to the Hammond Historical Law Collection, the Law Library purchased the 3,000 volume library of father and son professors from Göttingen, Germany, in 1920.¹¹⁵ This collection, the Leist collection, contained many rare books, including "the 1541 edition of Bartolus's *Commentaries on the Digest*," the oldest title in the Law Library, which Helen S. Moylan, Law Librarian from 1922 to 1941, described as follows: "The three large folio volumes of this work are bound in parchment which still retains the medieval script of the old manuscript which was destroyed to make a cover for the more up-to-date printed book."¹¹⁶ The Leist collection, composed mainly of German and Roman law resources, was a valuable acquisition for the University of Iowa Law Library.

Other valuable acquisitions during the Law Building years included appellate briefs. Iowa briefs were the first acquired when the family of the late Iowa Supreme

111. *Additions to the Law Library*, 3 Iowa L. Bull. 238 (1917).

112. *Id.*

113. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Law Jubilee 1920*, at 11.

114. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Sixth Annual Law Jubilee, March 13, 1923*, at 26.

115. *Id.*

116. *Id.*

Court Justice Joseph M. Beck presented the Law Library with 460 volumes of Iowa Supreme Court Arguments and Abstracts in 1925.¹¹⁷ In 1939, the Iowa briefs were joined by “[a] long run of the papers filed with the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit,” which were arranged and bound with the assistance of the Works Project Administration.¹¹⁸

The most notable series of briefs acquired by the Law Library, however, were from the United States Supreme Court, beginning with the October 1938 term, which the Law Library began to receive in 1940. What distinguished these briefs from the Law Library’s other holdings was the format in which they arrived. Inasmuch as original copies of the Supreme Court records and briefs were “practically impossible” to secure and equally difficult to store, amounting to several hundred volumes a term,¹¹⁹ the American Association of Law Libraries established a committee, chaired by Helen S. Moylan, the University of Iowa Law Librarian from 1922 to 1941, to investigate the feasibility of making microfilm reproductions of these records and briefs.¹²⁰ In 1940, Moylan reported that “[s]ix law libraries throughout the country—Michigan, Wisconsin, Duke, Pennsylvania, Los Angeles County, and Iowa—are cooperating to secure these microform reproductions. . . . It is planned to extend . . . [the Law Library’s] collection of Supreme Court records and briefs to embrace the entire series, as the microfilm reproductions become available.”¹²¹ These microfilmed reproductions of Supreme Court records and briefs were the first materials the University of Iowa Law Library received in a microformat.¹²²

The expansion in the size and depth of the collection was the result of more generous allocations from the Board of Regents which, according to former University of Iowa President Willard Lee (Sandy) Boyd, may have been the result of a competition in building law libraries between Walter A. Jessup, University of Iowa President from 1916–1934, and Lotus D. Coffman, University of Minnesota President from 1920–1938. As discussed earlier, development of the Law Library collection during the Old Capitol years was severely hampered by inadequate

117. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration of the College of Law, 1865–1925*, at 26.

118. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Report of the Librarian 1937–38* [hereinafter *1937/1938 Annual Report*], at 4, in College of Law, University of Iowa, *Annual Report to the President, 1937–38* (1938).

119. *The Law School*, 26 Iowa L. Rev. 72, 73 (1940).

120. Eda Zwinggi, *History of the University of Iowa Law Library, 1865–1966* (Draft) 6 (1971) (unpublished manuscript, on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

121. *The Law School*, 26 Iowa L. Rev. 72, 73 (1940).

122. *Id.*

acquisition budgets. Following the move to the Law Building in 1910, the book budget gradually increased from around \$2,000 in 1910 to \$8,000 in 1922,¹²³ allowing the collection to double from 15,000 to 30,000 volumes during those twelve years.¹²⁴

The best years, however, were still to come. In 1923, for instance, the Board of Regents allocated \$23,625 for the use of the Law Library in 1923, an amount greater than the total appropriations during the Old Capitol years, 1868 to 1910. This pace continued from 1923 to 1932 with average allocations of approximately \$18,000. As a result, the collection was growing rapidly, doubling its size again to 60,000 volumes by 1933. Although the Great Depression and World War II slashed the acquisitions budget, thereby impeding collection development, new items continued to be added every year, bringing the volume count to an estimated 90,000 volumes by 1948, which made the University of Iowa Law Library the tenth largest law school library in the country at that time.¹²⁵

After 1948, however, lack of space began to seriously curtail the acquisitions program which impaired the relative ranking of the Law Library.¹²⁶ At that time, the Law Library was attempting to store its 90,000 volume collection in facilities originally designed to hold 30,000 volumes at full capacity. Ten years later, the collection numbered 118,000 volumes and the relative ranking dropped to fifteenth out of 129 accredited law school libraries in the country.¹²⁷ Despite the setbacks caused by severely overcrowded shelves, collection growth never halted completely so that, when the Law Library moved into the Iowa Law Center in 1961, it contained 130,000 volumes.

The Law Library's years in the Law Building were very fruitful in terms of collection. For most of the fifty-one year period, the Law Library had adequate funds to secure the most necessary resources for its patrons. The collection grew rapidly, eliminating the gaps in American and British Commonwealth case reporters and expanding into statutory resources, appellate briefs, and new formats. Even though spatial limitations hampered collection growth during the 1950s, the University of Iowa Law Library was still ranked as the fifteenth largest law school library in the country.

123. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Allocations: Law Library 1868–1970* (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

124. Law Library, University of Iowa, *University of Iowa Law Library Holdings by Year* (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

125. Zwinggi, *supra* note 120, at 7.

126. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School* [hereinafter *1962 Dean's Report to the Bar*], 48 Iowa L. Rev. 1, 7 (1962).

127. *Library Crowded but One of Nation's Best*, Iowa Advocate, March 28, 1958, at 1.

Personnel

During the years in the Law Building, the Law Library had a series of directors whose dedication and advocacy spurred the growth of the collection. As the collection expanded, however, the Library needed more staff to bring order to the collection. Although a few positions were added during this period of the Law Library's history, the size of the full-time staff did not keep pace with the veritable explosion in collection size which created lasting difficulties for the Law Library.



Professor Elmer A. Wilcox, Law Librarian 1913–1922.

The system of hiring recent graduates as Law Librarians was discontinued shortly after the 1910 move to the Law Building. In 1913, administrative control of the Law Library was assumed by Elmer A. Wilcox, a professor in the College of Law since 1899. Wilcox had always had an interest in the Law Library; prior to his appointment as Law Librarian, Wilcox had served on faculty library committees charged with purchasing books for the library.¹²⁸ As part of his administrative duties, Wilcox continued to direct collection development, ensuring that the Law Library received the items most necessary for its primary patrons, the students,¹²⁹ and supervised desk assistants, mainly a recent graduate hired on a full-time basis, and two or three part-time student employees, who completed daily library tasks.¹³⁰ Professor Wilcox was also an effective advocate for the Law

128. See *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41, at 106 (Feb. 15, 1901).

129. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Sixth Annual Law Jubilee, March 13, 1923*, at 25.

130. Iowa State Board of Education, *Second Biennial Report of the Iowa State Board of Educa-*

Library. Under his guidance, the annual budget increased steadily, beginning at under \$2,000 and ending at almost \$8,000 in 1922, and the collection doubled from 15,000 to 29,500 volumes.

In 1922, Professor Wilcox turned administrative control of the Law Library over to Helen S. Moylan. Moylan had held positions in the law libraries of Harvard and the University of West Virginia before Henry Craig Jones, the newly appointed Dean, requested that she come with him to the University of Iowa to manage the law library. Although Moylan had no formal training in law librarianship when she began the position in 1922, she spent her summers attending classes, receiving a Bachelor's degree in library science from Columbia University. Moylan also attended law school, taking a leave of absence for the 1936 academic year to begin her studies at the University of California at Berkeley.¹³¹ Following her return to Iowa, she continued her studies and, at the time of her death in 1941, was a Senior in the law school. Following her death in 1941, the faculty reported that "[s]he was an outstanding student and would have been elected to the Order of the Coif consisting of the highest ten per cent of the graduating class."¹³²

Of Moylan, the faculty wrote: "Miss Moylan's great life work was the building of the law library. A valuable nucleus existed at her coming to Iowa. By quiet persistence she developed this into a library that ranks high among university law libraries in number and even higher in quality."¹³³ Moylan, in addition to her regular duties, "buying, cataloging, and general supervision on the library,"¹³⁴ advertised and promoted the Law Library to the faculty, students, Board of Regents, and general public. During her first year as Law Librarian, the Board of Regents tripled the Law Library's budget. The increased rate of acquisition created the need for an assistant cataloger, a position Moylan persuaded the College to fund.¹³⁵ Meanwhile, Moylan kept the students and public informed of the happenings and acquisitions at the Law Library through frequent newspaper articles in the University and Iowa City newspapers.

The University of Iowa Law Library also received excellent publicity as a result of Helen Moylan's professional law library activities. Included in these activities

tion to the Governor and the Thirty-Fifth General Assembly for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1912, in [1913] 2 Iowa Legis. Documents, at 230 (1913).

131. *The Law School*, 22 Iowa L. Rev. 106, 107 (1936).

132. *In Appreciation of Helen S. Moylan*, 27 Iowa L. Rev. 1 (1941).

133. *Id.*

134. *Laws Have 31,000 Library Volumes*, Daily Iowan, March 13, 1923, at 1.

135. Iowa State Board of Education, *Report of the Iowa State Board of Education for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1930, in [1931] 1 Iowa Documents, at 183 (1931). See also Report of the Iowa State Board of Education for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1930 at 111. (1933).*

were serving on a 1935 American Association of Law Schools round table on library problems¹³⁶ and serving as the vice-president for the National Association of Law Libraries,¹³⁷ and as president of the American Association of Law Libraries in 1939.¹³⁸ She also compiled an index for the first twenty-two volumes of the Iowa Law Review¹³⁹ and prepared an 1928 article listing the fundamental resources for small law school libraries¹⁴⁰ which she revised in 1939.¹⁴¹ Overall, Moylan's activities benefited the Law Library by placing it in the public eye, thereby inducing a flow of resources and people into the Law Library.

When Helen Moylan died suddenly on September 21, 1941, the school did not actively seek a new full-time law librarian, appointing various individuals as the "Acting Law Librarian" rather than as a successor "Law Librarian."¹⁴² The end of World War II, however, created a significant increase in both the student population and the faculty in the law school which convinced the faculty that the Law Library needed a more permanent director. In September 1946, Dean Ladd appointed Eda Zwinggi, a professional librarian who was then working in the University of Iowa Main Library circulation department, as the director of the Law Library. To complete her training for law librarianship, Zwinggi attended the Columbia Law Library Administration course and audited thirty hours of law school courses.¹⁴³ When Zwinggi retired in 1961, the students wrote: "Miss Zwinggi has played a very important role in making the law library one of the finest in the country. To the students, past and present, Miss Zwinggi is as well known as any member of the teaching faculty, for it is in her 'domain' that law students—at least most of them—spend many hours in deep concentration, often aided by her helpful assistance."¹⁴⁴

Although the Law Library had several directors during its years in the Law

136. Helen Moylan, *Law Librarian, Becomes Round Table Member*, Daily Iowan, April 12, 1935, at 5.

137. *Helen Moylan Talks on Mesa Verde Trip Before Altrusa Club*, Daily Iowan, July 18, 1935, at 2.

138. Helen Moylan, *S.U.I. Law Librarian, Writes Article in Law School Review*, Daily Iowan, Jan. 4, 1940, at 5.

139. *Plan Funeral Tomorrow for Helen Moylan, Law Librarian at University*, Iowa City Press Citizen, Sept. 22, 1941, at 2.

140. Helen S. Moylan, *Fundamental Material for the Law School Library with Particular Reference to the Library of 7,500 to 15,000 Volumes*, 21 L. Libr. J. 85 (1928).

141. Helen S. Moylan, *Selected List of Books for the Small Law School Library*, 32 L. Libr. J. 399 (1939).

142. Zwinggi, *supra* note 120, at 7.

143. *Library Crowded but One of Nation's Best*, Iowa Advocate, March 28, 1958, at 2.

144. *Dedicated to Those Retiring*, Iowa L. Rebuke, Spring 1961, at 7.

Building, few additional staff positions were added during this period despite the tremendous increase in the size of the collection. As was the case in the Old Capitol, student librarians performed many of the daily tasks in the Law Library. The *Daily Iowan* reported in 1923: “The management of the library is unique in that all desk work is done by students of the college.”¹⁴⁵ While the directors were busy selecting items to be purchased, cataloging those items, and performing other administrative tasks, student workers enforced the library policies, performed clerical duties, and answered patron’s questions. In the late 1940s, two support staff positions were created to type and file catalog cards, process new materials and continuations, and prepare materials for binding, relieving student workers of these tasks.¹⁴⁶

The Law Library had no full-time, permanent support staff until the late 1940s. As a result, the condition of the Law Library and its collection depended upon the efforts of the professional staff. For the first twenty-two years in the Law Building, the director was the only professional position. The situation changed in 1928 when the College of Law, in response to the tremendous increase in acquisitions during the 1920s, hired a full-time cataloger.¹⁴⁷ Following Helen Moylan’s death in 1941, the number of professional librarians fluctuated. For most of the final twenty years in the Law Building, the Law Library had a director and a half-time cataloger.

The staff for the University of Iowa Law Library during this period was wholly inadequate for the collection. During the years in the Law Building, the collection underwent tremendous growth with a staff so small that it could not process all of the materials the Law Library received. In her annual report for the 1937 academic year, Miss Moylan informed the Dean:

The cataloguing is still our great difficulty. We have not made any progress this year. This is due primarily to lack of sufficient help. The bigger the library becomes the more to be looked after, their arrangement becomes more complicated and necessitates devices for locating them. . . . We barely managed to get typed and filed a boxful of cards left over from last year. Miss Miller [the cataloger] faithfully keeps up the continuations which have been cataloged but there remains a great amount of uncataloged material.¹⁴⁸

Moylan stated that the situation was “urgent” and further argued that “[a] book

145. *Laws Have 31,000 Library Volumes*, *Daily Iowan*, March 13, 1923, at 1.

146. Zwinggi, *supra* note 120, at 8.

147. *Id.* at 5.

148. *1937/1938 Annual Report*, *supra* note 118, at 3.

not cataloged is a book not known and while we are able to keep up . . . with the purchase of necessary new material, we are not able to make it known . . . [As a result] people frequently go away unsatisfied when . . . we have quite a number of books on what they want . . . [but] if they don't ask . . . a librarian . . . they don't learn about them."¹⁴⁹ The fluctuations in the size of the staff in the 1940s and 1950s caused conditions to grow steadily worse during the Library's final years in the Law Building, creating an inaccurate catalog with which the staff and patrons had to contend well into the next era of the Law Library's history.

The Law Building years saw tremendous growth in the collection, due mainly to the dedication and advertising abilities of its directors. This growth, however, created an urgent need for additional staff which never materialized during this period. Inadequate staffing meant that many of the newly acquired materials were not cataloged, a problem that increased every year as more and more items waited for cataloging. Therefore, even though the Law Library owned many volumes on diverse topics, much of the collection was inaccessible unless patrons requested research assistance from the librarians.

Public Services

During its years in the Law Building, the Law Library expanded the services it offered patrons while continuing to offer many of the services begun while the library was housed in the Old Capitol. Changes in library policies and technologies created new access opportunities. The Law Building years also introduced the teaching of legal research skills by library staff into the curriculum of the law school.

Following the move to the Law Building in 1910, the Law Library continued to offer its patrons generous hours of operation, open stacks for easy access of resources, and comfortable study space. However, for most of the 50 year period, the Law Library maintained its status as a non-circulating library. This policy changed sometime between 1938 and 1961, perhaps when the allocated space was overflowing to the point that a few books off the shelves would have been a relief.¹⁵⁰

Another new policy allowed students access to the Law Library collection outside of scheduled hours of operation. For most of the Old Capitol years, a librarian had to be present if anyone else was to be in the library;¹⁵¹ in the Law

149. *Id.*

150. *Id.* at 2. See also University of Iowa Law Library, *Use of the Library* [2] (1963–1964) (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

151. *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41, Sept. 19, 1896, at Exhibit 1.

Building, however, the editors of the law review were given keys to the library because they occasionally needed after-hours access to the library in order to meet their deadlines.¹⁵² Problems arose when, after several years of this practice, other students gained access to unauthorized duplicate keys, resulting in serious abuse of library facilities, such as scattering books on the tables and leaving windows open all weekend.¹⁵³

In 1938, steps were taken to rectify this situation. The college administration first attempted to call in all the keys, but only officially issued keys were collected.¹⁵⁴ In another attempt to deal with the need for access to the Law Library during weekend hours, Dean Rutledge decided to hire someone on a part-time basis to open the library for longer hours on Saturday and for a few hours on Sunday.¹⁵⁵ The students appreciated the longer hours which increased the usage of the library and the presence of a supervisor during these times decreased the abuse of the facilities.¹⁵⁶ The Dean reported that the experiment was successful and would be continued.¹⁵⁷

Long-distance access to the collection for out-of-town attorneys became available through the purchase of new technology in 1959. In the Fall 1959 issue of the *Iowa Law Review*, the Law Library, supported by a grant for a copy machine, announced the creation of a new service. Beginning in 1959, the library would photocopy cases, statutory materials, or other research needs, and mail them to attorneys and other patrons for twelve cents per page for letter-sized paper, fifteen cents per legal-sized page.

During this period, the Law Library staff became teachers as well. In the early years of the Law Department, the professors lectured students on the use of the library. Professor Elmer A. Wilcox, the law librarian from 1913–1922, assumed this responsibility around 1918 in a one-credit course entitled “Use of Books” presented to first year students.¹⁵⁸ When Professor Wilcox died in 1929, Helen Moylan became the new instructor for the course and continued to teach it until her death in 1941.¹⁵⁹ Following Helen Moylan’s death, the “Use of Books” course was revamped and offered under different names and, although professors appear

152. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Annual Report to the President, 1937–38*, at 33 (1938).

153. *Id.*

154. *Id.*

155. *Id.* at 34.

156. *Id.*

157. *Id.*

158. Zwinggi, *supra* note 120, at 4.

159. *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41, Jan. 17, 1931. *See also* Zwinggi, *supra* note 120, at 5.

to have played the dominate role in the courses,¹⁶⁰ the Law Librarians' involvement continued.

From 1910 to 1961, public services expanded dramatically. The Law Library maintained the practices designed to provide patrons with the greatest possible access to the collection, even expanding the hours of operation in 1938 in response to a demonstrated need for more weekend hours and providing keys for those students whose workloads required after-hours access. Access was further extended beginning in 1959 with the creation of a mail order service. The Law Library staff also began to take a more active role in the curriculum with the creation of legal research courses.

The Iowa Law Center, 1961–1986

The Facilities

The University of Iowa Law Library occupied quarters in the Iowa Law Center, currently known as the International Center, from 1961 to 1986. During this period, inadequate facilities was one of the primary challenges faced by the Law Library. For most of the Law Center years, the Law Library and its patrons suffered through severely cramped conditions and inconvenient off-site storage.

In 1961, the College of Law and the Law Library moved into its new facilities in the Iowa Law Center. The Law Library occupied the first two floors of an addition to the Law Commons which had previously been a law student dormitory. Dean Ladd described the new law library facility as follows:

The first two floors of the building are devoted to the library which can accommodate approximately 250,000 volumes when ultimately filled to capacity. On the main floor of the library, the stacks are placed in the center of the building with tables, reading areas, and study carrels around the outside of the stacks. The lower floor consists of a double deck library arrangement with sufficient stacks to take care of all present requirements and anticipated expansion.¹⁶¹

Caroline Heriot, who replaced Ms. Zwinggi as Law Library Director in 1960, oversaw the move of the library to the Law Center. Heriot served as Law Librarian

160. *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41, Mar. 13, 1947. See also Letter from Eda Zwinggi, Law Librarian of University of Iowa Law Library, to Miles O. Price, Law Librarian of Columbia University (Apr. 17, 1953) (on file in University of Iowa Law Library).

161. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School to the Bar* [hereinafter *1961 Dean's Report to the Bar*], 47 Iowa L. Rev. 1 (1961).



Exterior view of Law Library wing of the Law Center.

from 1960 to 1966, when she was succeeded by Richard Hutchins, who served until 1975. By fall 1962, the move was complete; the shelving units installed, the collection arranged on the new shelves, and “the tables and chairs from the old library . . . repaired and refinished for use on the lower levels of the new library.”¹⁶² According to the Dean, the Law Library, in addition to adequate expansion space for the collection, had “table work space adequate for all students and for reasonable enrollment expansion.”¹⁶³

Despite the predictions that the Law Library would have sufficient space, the Law Library was “in great need of space” by 1965, only four years after moving to the Law Center.¹⁶⁴ This was especially true for study space as overcrowding was a common problem. The faculty minutes for March 15, 1965 reported that “[t]he focus of the problem appears to be the use of the law library by persons who are not law students and who are not doing work involving a legitimate need to use law books.”¹⁶⁵ Recognizing that the 1964 installation of an air conditioning system would exacerbate the problem,¹⁶⁶ the faculty planned for the construction of a new

162. 1962 *Dean's Report to the Bar*, *supra* note 126, at 7.

163. *Id.*

164. S. Mason Ladd, *Report of the Dean of the Iowa Law School to the Bar* [hereinafter 1965 *Dean's Report to the Bar*], 51 *Iowa L. Rev.* 1, 11 (1965).

165. *Faculty Minutes*, *supra* note 41, at Mar. 15, 1965.

166. *Id.*



Richard Hutchins, University of Iowa Law Librarian 1966–1975.

floor in the mezzanine level “which [would] double the seating capacity in that part of the building . . . [as well as] provide increased space for shelving.”¹⁶⁷ The 1966 construction on the mezzanine level increased the allocated library space to three complete floors, created more study space, a typing area, and shelving for an additional 13,000 volumes.¹⁶⁸

The additional floor, however, provided only short-lived relief. From 1967 to 1974, the Law Library added, on average, 10,300 items every year. As was the case in the old Law Building, the Law Library began to rely on remote storage to relieve overcrowding in the stacks when it moved the records and briefs for the Iowa Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit to the basement of the Law Commons portion of the building in 1967.¹⁶⁹ By 1974, Dean Lawrence Blades reported:

Space to house our growing collection is running out. The collection, which numbered 130,000 ten years ago, has reached 215,000 today. Available shelf space will be completely exhausted in one to two years. . . . The law library, with approximately 28,000 square feet of usable space, is about 15,000 square feet short of what acceptable standards indicate should be provided for a law school serving close to 600 students and housing 200,000 volumes.¹⁷⁰

167. *1965 Dean's Report to the Bar*, *supra* note 164, at 11.

168. *Library Expansion in Progress*, *Iowa Advocate*, Oct. 1966, at 4.

169. *1976 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 34.

170. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1974*, at 11.

By 1976, the Law Library's shelves were ninety-eight percent full,¹⁷¹ the collection continued to grow at a rate of six percent per year,¹⁷² and in some areas of the Law Library, "books were being shelved on the windowsills and stacked on the floor."¹⁷³ In order to make room for new acquisitions, the Library Director estimated that the library would have to ship approximately 25,000 volumes per year to remote storage.¹⁷⁴ By the time the new building was ready for occupancy in 1986, 130,000 volumes,¹⁷⁵ over thirty percent of the collection, were housed in two different storage locations, the basement of the Mayflower Apartments and a former grocery store on South Clinton Street.¹⁷⁶

While the expanding collection was exhausting the shelf space, other spatial concerns were developing. For example, the Law Library's 1976 Self-Study Report predicted that the Library would soon need more space for microform storage and equipment.¹⁷⁷ Although the Law Library's policy had always been to collect materials in print if available, more and more items were being published only in microform formats so that the Law Library required a room of adequate size to house the necessary cabinets and microform readers.¹⁷⁸ The Library would also need additional space when the professors began to use audiovisual materials in the classroom because the Law Library, the "logical repository" for these resources, would need "a soundproof room with viewing cubicles. . . , as well as storage capabilities for the equipment and tapes."¹⁷⁹ In addition, computer-assisted legal research was fast approaching and the Law Library would need yet another soundproof area for the terminals, one sufficiently large for training small groups of students in the use of the services.¹⁸⁰ Room for the new equipment and storage could only come from the overcrowded public areas of the Law Library.

The behind-the-scenes picture was just as cramped as the public areas of the Law Library. The staff desperately needed more office space in order to accomplish daily library tasks. Shelving units for over two thousand volumes of publications

171. A library that has 86 percent of its shelves occupied by books is considered filled to capacity. See *WANTED: New Facility for "Superior Law School*, Iowa Advocate, Feb.–Mar. 1980, at 16, 17.

172. *1976 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note, 97, at 40.

173. *Id.* at 34.

174. *Id.* at 36.

175. Law Library, University of Iowa., *Annual Report 1984–1985* [hereinafter *1984/1985 Annual Report*], at Appendix 13.

176. *1976 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 36.

177. *Id.* at 37.

178. *Id.*

179. *Id.*

180. *Id.*

necessary for law library functions and for the newly created Faculty Collection occupied large portions of already crowded library offices, and the technical services departments needed additional shelves so that Library personnel had a place to store volumes before they were processed or bound.¹⁸¹ The Library was also adding personnel, both permanent and project positions, forcing the Law Library to create new work areas.

Although the Library staff received some relief when the basement level lobby in the Law Center was “converted into space for library workers” and part of the lower level lobby, after the construction of a new wall, became the new home of the “library’s photocopying and loose-leaf filing departments,”¹⁸² this space was soon eroded with the installation of LEXIS and WESTLAW, in 1978 and 1983 respectively. No space for these services was available in public areas of the Law Library so that the terminals were “squeezed into other [library] offices causing crowding and inconvenience to all persons concerned.”¹⁸³ The 1985 Self-Study Report stated that “[o]ffice space for the library staff has been of utmost concern in the present building.”¹⁸⁴ In fact, staff workspace was completely exhausted; “[t]he Associate Law Librarian share[d] an office with the departmental secretary; . . . the cataloging room. . . ha[d] six desks, two computer terminals and two printers plus files crammed into a room meant for four persons at most and the reference librarians ha[d] no offices at all.”¹⁸⁵

The Law Library, forced to create room for the expansion of the collection, for the use and storage of new formats and new technologies, and for necessary staff workspace, diverted much of the available study space for patrons for the other spatial needs of the library. In 1977, an *Iowa Advocate* article stated: “Based upon a book entitled *Planning Academic and Research Library Building[s]* by Metcalf, . . . the definitive work in the area, the library currently has minimal space for 200 users. However, there are 600 students and 35 faculty members who must use the library . . . daily as well as 15 to 20 non-Law School users who pass in and out of the facility every day.”¹⁸⁶ Of these conditions, Dean Hines, in a February 1979 statement to the Joint Legislative Subcommittee on Educational Appropriations, said: “What our students find when they enter the Law Library is both discouraging and disruptive of our basic educational objectives. They find

181. *Id.* at 36.

182. *Land Use Planning in the Law School*, *Iowa Advocate*, Spring 1977, at 10.

183. Law Library, University of Iowa., *Law Library Self-Study*, [hereinafter *1985 Library Self-Study*] at 5 (1985) on file in University of Iowa Law Library.

184. *Id.* at 5–6.

185. *Id.*

186. Brian Gruhn, *The Need for Change*, *Iowa Advocate*, Spring 1977, at 12, 13.

a Law Library bursting its seams with books but with no space for them to carry out their educational assignments.²¹⁸⁷



Crowded stacks in the Law Center Law Library in 1979.

Dean Hines's statement echoed that of the 1978 ABA/AALS Accreditation Report for the law school which called the University of Iowa College of Law the "worst-housed law school of its caliber in the country."²¹⁸⁸ Although the Accreditation Inspection Team was impressed by the collection and staff of the Law Library, it considered the crowded conditions deplorable.¹⁸⁹ The Accreditation Report recommended that the law school "abandon efforts to expand or rehabilitate the present building and seek instead to provide suitable housing for the law school

187. WANTED: *New Facility for "Superior Law School*, Iowa Advocate, Feb.–Mar. 1980, at 16, 17.

188. N. William Hines, *The Dean's Report: Review of the 1978–1980 Biennium* [hereinafter *1978–1980 Dean's Report*] 4, in *College of Law Biennial Report 1978–1980*, reprinted in 18 Iowa Advocate (1980).

189. WANTED: *New Facility for "Superior Law School*, Iowa Advocate, Feb.–Mar. 1980, at 16, 17.

in a new building.¹⁹⁰ In March, 1979, the faculty voted unanimously in favor of a new building and by May, the Iowa General Assembly began to appropriate funds for a new home for the College of Law.¹⁹¹

During its years in the Iowa Law Center, the Law Library was bursting at the seams. The facilities in the Iowa Law Center were never adequate to meet the needs of the collection or the patrons. By the mid 1970s, the available shelving was completely exhausted and approximately 25,000 volumes each year were moved to remote storage. Space for new technologies and additional staff was stolen from patron areas, creating severely overcrowded study conditions for the students. Overall, the Law Library's facilities in the Iowa Law Center were deplorable for a law school library of its caliber.

The Collection

In spite of the dismal facilities in the Iowa Law Center, the collection grew substantially, from 130,000 volumes to approximately 540,000 volumes and volume equivalents, during this period in the Law Library's history. The acquisitions budget gradually improved over this twenty-five year period, permitting the Law Library to fill gaps in the collection. For the last few years in the Law Center, however, collection development slowed considerably as the book budget was drained by inflation and new technologies.

In the years immediately preceding the move to the Iowa Law Center, inadequate facilities stunted the growth of the collection. Dean Ladd, in his 1962 Report to the Bar, stated: "In the old law school building, the library was in such need of space that many necessary books could not be purchased. Domestic statutes, cases, and loose-leaf services have been regularly kept up to date but there are many additional works which we must have to make ours an outstanding library."¹⁹² To rectify this situation, Dean Ladd declared that "[o]ver the next ten year period, it is essential to make substantial annual acquisitions beyond our current purchases . . ."¹⁹³

This goal was hampered by the Library's acquisitions budget. Although the acquisitions budget did increase during most of the next few fiscal years, the increases were slight. As stated by George Strait, Law Library Director from 1976 to 1985, the acquisition budgets during the 1960s and early 1970s, despite the modest increases, "were clearly inadequate . . . to restore the library to its earlier

190. *1978–1980 Dean's Report*, *supra* note 188, at 4.

191. *Id.* at 5.

192. *1962 Dean's Report to the Bar*, *supra* note 126, at 7.

193. *Id.*

position or even allow it to keep even with other similar quality libraries. Proof of this was the drastic decline in the relative position of the Iowa Law Library *vis-a-vis* other law libraries. In 1946 it was tenth. By 1966 it was twentieth, and in 1972 it was nineteenth.¹⁹⁴

In spite of an acquisitions budget inadequate to maintain the Law Library's ranking in terms of the size of its collection among other law school libraries, the collection was growing. During the first thirteen years in the Iowa Law Center, 100,000 volumes were added to the collection. One particular area in which the collection was expanding was international law. In 1961, the collection was very strong in American law but contained only limited foreign and international resources.¹⁹⁵ Dean Ladd, following the move of the library to the Law Center, stated that the Law Library needed "to expand into the foreign and international fields where work is being regularly done in the law school."¹⁹⁶

Some assistance toward increasing the international aspects of the collection came through gifts. In August of 1961, the granddaughter of the late Judge Nathaniel French donated 3,600 volumes, mainly British and Canadian legal resources, from his collection to the Law Library.¹⁹⁷ In addition, Grace Sayre, the widow of Professor Paul Sayre, presented the library with several hundred volumes on international law, Professor Sayre's specialty.¹⁹⁸

Another step toward strengthening the international collection began when the Law Library hired Stephen Sass as a cataloger in 1961. Sass had been an attorney in Hungary and had "studied in the Universities of Budapest, Heidelberg and Munich . . ." ¹⁹⁹ After the 1956 Hungarian revolution, he came to the United States and, in 1961, graduated from the Western Reserve University of Library Science.²⁰⁰ Dean Ladd, informing the Bar about the Law Library's newest cataloger in his 1961 report, wrote that "[b]ecause of his [Sass's] rich background in foreign law, he will be especially valuable in the development of international materials."²⁰¹ Although Sass assumed teaching responsibilities in the law school in 1964, he continued his work in the law library until 1972, becoming the only Foreign and International Law Librarian the University of Iowa has had to date.²⁰²

194. *1976 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 10.

195. Zwinggi, *supra* note 120, at 9.

196. *1962 Dean's Report to the Bar*, *supra* note 126, at 7.

197. *5000 Volumes Given to University Law Library*, *Daily Iowan*, Aug. 2, 1961, at 3.

198. *Id.*

199. *1961 Dean's Report to the Bar*, *supra* note 161, at 9.

200. *Id.*

201. *Id.*

202. *Sass Retirement*, *Iowa Advocate*, Spring/Summer 1986, at 12.

With Sass's assistance, the international collection improved dramatically. In 1969, an article in the *Iowa Advocate* reported with respect to international law materials that "the [Law] library acquire[d] everything published [that year] in English and attempt[ed] to get all French and German language publications [published that year] as well. . . . It has excellent coverage of public and private international law and German and French national law and a good selection of materials on the European communities, commercial law, and international court decisions."²⁰³ By 1969, the Law Library's collection, coupled with the resources at the general library, provided a broad and deep "array of international legal materials"²⁰⁴

During this period, the Law Library also expanded its holdings of Federal government documents. In 1968, the University of Iowa Law Library was designated as a depository for United States government documents. It was only the twelfth law library to obtain such a designation.²⁰⁵ As part of this program, the Law Library would receive free all United States documents relevant for serious, in-depth legal research, such as hearings, reports of agencies, and the Congressional Record.²⁰⁶ Richard Hutchins, director of the Law Library from 1966 to 1975, said: "Achievement of depository status will result in significant improvement in library services for the law school and the entire legal profession in the state of Iowa."²⁰⁷

Further improvements in library services and the collection developed following the 1966 visit of Marian G. Gallagher, the Law Librarian at the University of Washington School of Law. In 1966, Dean David H. Vernon, interested in improving both the collection and services of the Law Library, invited Gallagher to advise him on the steps needed to "allow the University of Iowa Law Library to measure up to the distinction of its Law School"²⁰⁸ Gallagher recommended "that first attention be given to the content of the collection. The quality of service to the library's users is largely dependent on organization, size and skill of the staff, but a staff which is organized for service must have a quality collection [on

203. Richard Mindy, *The International Invasion of Iowa*, *Iowa Advocate*, Spring 1969, at 8.

204. *Id.*

205. *Law Library Gets U.S. Documents*, *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, Dec. 26, 1968, at 7A.

206. *Id.*

207. *Id.*

208. Memorandum from Marian G. Gallagher, Law Librarian at the University of Washington Law School, to David H. Vernon, Dean of the University of Iowa Law School 1 (Jan. 17, 1967) (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

which] to operate. . . .²⁰⁹ To begin the process, she advised that the Law Library should survey its collection using the various checklists available at the time to determine the deficiencies of the collection.²¹⁰ In addition to finding weak areas in the collection, the survey would “increase the staff’s familiarity with the collection” which, in turn, would improve reference, circulation, and collection development.²¹¹

The Law Library made several attempts to implement Gallagher’s recommendation. From 1968 to 1970, student workers compared the library’s catalog with the AALS *Law Books Recommended for Libraries* list.²¹² “While this effort revealed many of the collection’s deficiencies, no shelf check was undertaken to verify the work was physically present; nor were any orders generated.”²¹³ Not until 1977 did the Law Library complete its survey of the collection against the AALS *Law Books Recommended* list. At that time, a full-time librarian, hired for a special nine-month project, checklisted the collection, and generated orders for any available items given high priority by the AALS *Law Books Recommended* list which were not already in the collection, and for “titles once held but . . . missing [from the shelves].”²¹⁴ George Strait, the Library Director at that time, stated that “the shelf check and purchasing [would] allow the library to upgrade as well as evaluate its collection.”²¹⁵ Although the AALS *Law Books Recommended* project was officially completed in 1978, its reverberations kept the acquisitions and cataloging departments busy for the next two years.²¹⁶

The acquisitions budget continued to play a critical role in the Law Library’s attempts to round out its collection. Starting in the mid 1970s, inflation in the price of legal publications began to place an enormous strain on the Library’s acquisitions budget. An article in the *Daily Iowan* in October 1975 reported that “the book budget for the Law Library has remained virtually the same over the past five years, despite an increase of approximately 40 per cent in the average cost of each book.”²¹⁷ George A. Strait, who became director of the Law Library in 1976, stressed that the amounts allocated for acquisitions had to keep up with

209. *Id.*

210. *Id.*

211. *Id.* at 2.

212. 1976 *Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 11.

213. *Id.*

214. *Id.*

215. *Id.*

216. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1979/1980* [hereinafter 1979/1980 *Annual Report*], at 4.

217. *UI Library Stacks Inferior*, *Daily Iowan*, Oct. 23, 1975, at 1.

inflation in order to fill the gaps in the collection and improve the relative standing of the Law Library.²¹⁸ By 1981, the Annual Report revealed that “[t]he inflation in book prices since the ‘norm’ of 1973/74 [had] been 150% for law monographs and 166% for serials” so that “[e]ven though the book budget was increased, . . . the money which was available did not go as far.”²¹⁹

Inflation, however, was not the only drain on the book budget. Starting in 1978, the Law Library had to use a portion of its book budget to acquire computer databases such as LEXIS, RLIN, and WESTLAW. Although the Library Director argued that the Law Library needed a separately funded account for computer services and maintenance, writing: “These computerized services are here to stay and it is somewhat unrealistic to undercut the acquisitions budget in this way,”²²⁰ the majority of the funds used for the purchase of these systems was transferred from the book budget, thereby decreasing significantly the number of other items the Law Library could acquire.

Due to the serious effects of inflation on a book budget that did not keep pace with the rising cost of resources and the need to fund part of the acquisition of computerized services from the book budget, the Law Library reevaluated its collection strategies in the 1980s to insure that its patrons had access to the greatest possible selection of resources. One of the first steps taken towards this goal was the weeding of lower priority serial subscriptions during the 1980–1981 fiscal year.²²¹ Subscriptions were considered lower priority, making them more likely to be terminated, if they were held elsewhere on campus, were duplicate copies, or contained materials covered in other publications. On the basis of these criteria, the acquisitions department redirected almost \$18,000 into purchasing more desirable resources during the 1980–1981 fiscal year.²²² For the next several years, the acquisitions department continued to monitor the collection, weeding out subscriptions of lesser priority in an effort to use an inadequate acquisitions budget in the wisest manner.

The really difficult collection development decisions, however, were still to come. During the early 1980s, the book budget continued to increase every year, partially combating the effects of inflation. The Law Library’s final year in the Iowa Law Center, 1985–1986, however, saw a static acquisitions budget with a ten percent increase in the price of law books.²²³ This situation required an im-

218. 1976 *Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 10.

219. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report, 1980/1981*, at 4.

220. *Id.* at 10.

221. *Id.* at 5.

222. *Id.* at 5.

223. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1985/1986* [hereinafter *1985/1986 Annual Report*], at 4.

mediate reduction in the number of items purchased and necessarily “induced a revision in the selection process and acquisition policies.”²²⁴ Arthur E. Bonfield, who became Associate Dean for Research that year, established and chaired a selection committee which examined standing orders, duplicate subscriptions, and other potential purchases “to ensure that new investments in the library collection returned the greatest benefit possible to its user community.”²²⁵ As a result, approximately 140 titles were canceled, permitting the Law Library to live within its acquisitions budget and insure the best use of its acquisitions funds.²²⁶ As will be seen subsequently, this was only the beginning of a more serious degradation in the purchasing power of the Law Library’s budget for adding new information resources to its collection.

In spite of the obstacles faced by the University of Iowa Law Library during this period, 1961–1985, the collection growth during the 1970s and early 1980s helped the Library regain the relative ranking among law school libraries that it had held before limited space in the old Law Building halted collection growth. As stated previously, the University of Iowa Law Library was ranked as the tenth largest law school library in the country in 1946.²²⁷ The Law Library dropped as low as twentieth in 1966.²²⁸ By 1985, the University of Iowa Law Library ranked thirteenth among accredited law school libraries in volumes held,²²⁹ twelfth in volume equivalents held,²³⁰ and ninth for volumes and volume equivalents held with a total of 484,964 volumes and volume equivalents.²³¹ At that time, the library contained 155,126 different titles, giving it an eleventh place ranking in that category.²³²

For the collection of the University of Iowa Law Library, the years in the Iowa Law Center were a time of growth. Following the move into the Law Center, the Law Library staff focused its attention on filling the gaps in the collection, a goal primarily accomplished through the AALS *Law Books Recommended* project during the 1977–1978 academic year. During this period, the Law Library also

224. *Id.*

225. *Id.*

226. *Id.*

227. *1976 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 10.

228. *Id.*

229. *Data and Rankings Report for the Law Library Survey of 1985 For the Law School Libraries* [hereinafter *1985 Law Library Statistics*], at 1.

230. Law Library, University of Iowa., *University of Iowa Law Library Comparative Statistics for 7/1/85 (Date Arthur Bonfield became Associate Dean for Research) and 7/1/04* [hereinafter *2004 Comparative Statistics*], at 1 (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

231. *1985 Law Library Statistics*, *supra* note 229, at 7.

232. *2004 Comparative Statistics* *supra* note 230, at 2.

expanded its international law, foreign law, and United States documents collections, while battling with budgets which were often insufficient to deal with runaway inflation in the cost of adding new materials and computerization to the library.

Personnel

Inadequate staffing, a problem that plagued the Law Library during the Law Building years, continued throughout the Library's years in the Iowa Law Center. Much of the staff during the Law Center years was hired on a temporary basis only because of insufficient funding for permanent staff positions. Beginning in the middle 1970s, some permanent positions were funded. Despite these additions, the Law Library finished this period as it began, severely understaffed for a collection of its size.

When the Law Library migrated across the Iowa River into the Law Center in August 1961, the library staff consisted of a Director (Caroline Heriot), two catalogers (one full-time and one half-time), two paraprofessional support staff, and a few student workers.²³³ Although the collection started to grow dramatically, the size of the staff remained very small. Over the next six years, only one paraprofessional position was added and the half-time cataloging position was upgraded to full-time.²³⁴

Such a small permanent staff forced the Library Directors to use creative budgeting techniques to complete the work necessary for adequate access to the collection. The Self-Study Report in 1976 stated that:

The Director attempted to get the work done by using personnel on 'soft' money. This was done several ways: 1) special requests for positions made on a year-to-year basis and granted by the administration 2) paying full time staff on an hourly basis out of the student wages account 3) using funds . . . from the photoduplication account to pay part or all of the salary of full-time staff.²³⁵

Reliance on "soft" money to hire needed library staff led to great fluctuations in the number of staff. In 1968, the Law Library was staffed by 5.2 professional librarians²³⁶ including Law Library Director Richard Hutchins, who served in the post until 1995. The next year, the library had 5.8 professionals.²³⁷ Budget

233. Zwinggi, *supra* note 120, at 9.

234. 1976 *Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 23.

235. *Id.*

236. *Id.*

237. *Id.*

cuts in 1971 dropped the number of professional staff to under five full-time employees; for the next six years, the average size of the professional staff was 4.6 employees.²³⁸ In 1976, new Law Library Director George Strait wrote: “Obviously this is not the ideal way to manage staff, since it means uncertainty of numbers from year to year and necessitates a great deal of short-term employees and much turnover.”²³⁹

Even with the reliance on short-term employees hired on soft money, the library was severely understaffed. A chart included in the 1976 Self-Study Report compared Iowa with other large law school libraries. At that time, the law schools at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Washington were the closest to the Iowa Law School in terms of size of the library collections, student bodies, and faculties but Iowa lagged far behind in terms of library staff. While the University of Pennsylvania Law Library had 9 professional librarians and 14 paraprofessional employees and the University of Washington Law Library had 10.5 professionals and 18.1 paraprofessionals, the University of Iowa Law Library had only 4.2 professionals and 7 paraprofessionals.²⁴⁰

The University of Iowa Law Library desperately needed additional permanent staff, both professional and paraprofessional, in order to provide adequate service to its patrons.²⁴¹ The 1976 Self-Study Report argued that an adequate staff for the University of Iowa Law Library, given the size of its collection and the number of faculty members and students, would consist of thirty-eight individuals, eleven professional librarians and twenty-seven paraprofessional staff members.²⁴² At the time the Report was written, the Law Library was staffed by less than half of the full-time personnel listed in the Self-Study Report’s ideal organizational chart; only seventeen full-time individuals staffed the Law Library, seven professional librarians and ten support staff.

Although the Law Library continued to be severely understaffed during the Iowa Law Center years, the staff for the Law Library began to grow as positions were added to meet the most pressing needs of the Law Library. From 1961 to 1979, the Law Library responded to its huge cataloging backlog, the inefficient organization of its collection, and the largest acquisitions budgets in its history²⁴³ by focusing its resources on the development of its technical services staff. Prior

238. *Id.*

239. *Id.* at 24.

240. *Id.* at 25.

241. *Id.* at 30.

242. *Id.* at 27.

243. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1975/1976* [hereinafter *1975/1976 Annual Report*], at 1.

to the 1976 Self–Study Report, the professional Technical Services staff consisted of an Acquisitions Librarian, one Catalog Librarian, and a Serials and Documents Librarian.²⁴⁴ In the years following the report, the Technical Services staff expanded, adding a second Catalog Librarian in late 1976,²⁴⁵ a Head of Technical Services in 1977,²⁴⁶ and a Government Documents Librarian in 1979.²⁴⁷

Due to the need to focus on technical services, development of a public services staff was delayed. As was the case in the old Law Building, students provided most of the public services to the patrons, supervised by the Library Director. For example, the 1967/1968 Annual Report stated: “Due to a lack of professional staff, the Director served as Head of Circulation. Much of his time was used in supervising student desk clerks and shelvers. This time was taken at the expense of planning and administration.”²⁴⁸ In 1968, the responsibility for public services was passed to the new Assistant Law Librarian.²⁴⁹ Not until 1976 did the Law Library hire its first non–administrative, public service position, a full–time reference librarian. Between 1976 and 1986, the Law Library added two more professional public services librarians, a circulation librarian in 1978²⁵⁰ and a second reference librarian in 1983.²⁵¹

In total, the staff of the Law Library increased by 17.5 full–time equivalent positions during its twenty–five years in the Iowa Law Center. This level of staffing was still far short of adequate for a 540,000 volume and volume–equivalent collection as illustrated in the 1984–1985 rankings of accredited law school libraries. During that year, the University of Iowa Law Library ranked ninth in volumes and volume equivalents held²⁵² but ranked thirty–first in total Full–time Equivalent Professional and Support Personnel.²⁵³

When the Law Library moved into the Iowa Law Center in 1961, it was severely

244. 1976 Self–Study Report, *supra* note 97, at 26.

245. *Id.*

246. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report, 1977/1978* [hereinafter *1977/1978 Annual Report*], at 1; Law Library, University of Iowa, *University of Iowa Law Librarians, 1868–1996 and Paraprofessional Staff, December 1996* [hereinafter *Library Staff*] 3 (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

247. 1979/1980 *Annual Report*, *supra* note 216, at 7; *Library Staff*, *supra* note 246, at 3.

248. Law Library, University of Iowa., *Annual Report, July 1, 1967 through June 30, 1968* [hereinafter *1967/1968 Annual Report*], at 2 (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

249. *Library Staff*, *supra* note 243, at 3.

250. *Headnotes*, Iowa Advocate, Winter 1978–79, at 26.

251. *Library Staff*, *supra* note 246, at 3.

252. 1984–1985 microfilm and microfiche volume equivalency figures and rankings have been calculated using the current equivalency formulae. See 2004 *Comparative Statistics*, *supra* note 230, at [1].

253. 2004 *Comparative Statistics*, *supra* note 230, at 4.



George A. Strait, Law Library Director 1976–1985.

understaffed with only three professional librarians and two support staff for a collection of 130,000 volumes. The next fifteen years saw constant fluctuations in the number of library personnel because new positions were funded using “soft money.” In the mid 1970s, conditions improved as permanent positions were funded, first for technical services positions and, later, for public services. Although over seventeen positions were created during the Iowa Law Center years, the level of staffing was still inadequate for the collection when the Law Library relocated to the Boyd Law Building.

Technical Service Achievements

As mentioned previously, intensive collection development coupled with inadequate staff in the old Law Building created an enormous cataloging backlog and an inaccurate card catalog. Resource retrieval was further complicated by the Law Library’s classification system, the Hicks system which shelved items alphabetically by author or title within publication types such as treatises or statutes.²⁵⁴ Although this arrangement did not seriously hinder research in case reporters and statutes, treatises were almost impossible to find. The Law Library finally confronted these problems during its Law Center years, 1961 to 1985,

254. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Users’ Guide 1970*, at 8.

initiating many projects designed to improve physical and bibliographic control of the collection.

As part of her 1966 visit to the University of Iowa Law Library, Marian Gallagher examined the collection and the catalog. She recommended that, in addition to a survey of the collection, the Law Library needed additional staff in order to bring its catalog up to date²⁵⁵ and that the Library should adopt the new Library of Congress K schedule.²⁵⁶ Despite the fact that faculty members were more concerned about classifying the collection, Gallagher argued eliminating the cataloging backlog should take precedence over classification because classification is not a “substitute for an accurate catalog”; items which deal with more than one subject can be cataloged for each subject but only classified for one.²⁵⁷ Gallagher also stated that “it would be an entirely unusual and uneconomical procedure to classify books which had not been cataloged In the unhappy event that provision can be made to accomplish only one task, that task should be cataloging, and the classification should be forgotten.”²⁵⁸

Between 1967 and 1976, several attempts were made to implement Gallagher’s recommendations.²⁵⁹ The Law Library adopted the Library of Congress subject matter classification system in 1970 and began to reclassify its collection on that basis as schedules became available.²⁶⁰ Beginning in 1971, one of the catalogers started to reclassify the treatise collection as time permitted.²⁶¹ From January through June 1972, two librarians and five assistants, working on special project money allocated to the library on a temporary basis by the Dean, completed the reclassification of the treatise collection, reclassifying 10,481 titles and 14,459 volumes.²⁶² As more Library of Congress law schedules became available, the library conducted many mini-projects which resulted in the reclassification of another 15,000 volumes.

In 1979, cataloging became easier with the installation of the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), “a computerized bibliographic searching and cataloging system developed at Stanford University in 1967. The System became

255. Gallagher, *supra* note 207, at 7.

256. Memorandum from Marian G. Gallagher, Law Librarian at the University of Washington Law School, to David H. Vernon, Dean of the University of Iowa Law School 1 (Jan. 30, 1967) (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

257. Gallagher, *supra* note 207, at 8.

258. *Id.*

259. See 1976 *Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 11.

260. 1976 *Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 41–42.

261. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Overview report on cataloging activities* 1 (1981) (unpublished manuscript on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

262. *Id.*

operational in 1972 and has been continuously expanding as new libraries join.²⁶³ By 1979, cataloging from twenty-six law libraries was included in the over two million records contained in this database.²⁶⁴ RLIN was a “major time saver” for the Law Library staff as it improved interlibrary loan services, “eliminate[d] manual searching of the card catalog for new titles,” and provided new catalog cards, “preprinted and alphabetized so that they . . . [could] be quickly inserted [into the card catalog].”²⁶⁵ The assistance that RLIN provided meant that new items could be cataloged and placed on the shelves for the use of patrons with much less delay than had been the case previously.²⁶⁶

RLIN was to play a major role in the largest technical services project ever undertaken in the University of Iowa Law Library. In preparation for the move to the new Boyd Law Building, the Retrospective Conversion Project was launched. Retrospective conversion involved reclassifying, relabeling, and, in many cases, recataloging the entire collection²⁶⁷ so that all of the bibliographic information for the collection could be added to the RLIN database. The computerized bibliographic records would then be used to establish a local on-line catalog.²⁶⁸ Originally, the timeline for the project was five to seven years but in November 1983, the proposed project was redesigned as a two year project “to correspond with the move to the new building [in 1986].”²⁶⁹

The University Central Administration approved the use of Building funds for the Retrospective Conversion Project in December of 1983, and the Law Library hired several project employees to work with permanent library staff on the project.²⁷⁰ During the twenty-five month project, from January 1984 to January 31, 1986, project staff reclassified 64,926 titles and 132,082 volumes.²⁷¹ At the conclusion of the project, machine-readable records for all of the fully cataloged titles in the Law Library collection could be found in the RLIN database.²⁷²

263. *RLIN—Major Time Saver for Law Library*, Iowa Advocate, Fall/Winter 1979–80, at 18.

264. *Id.*

265. *Id.*

266. *Id.*

267. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1983/1984* [hereinafter *1983/1984 Annual Report*], at 1.

268. *Id.*

269. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Retrospective Conversion Project, Six Month Status Report, January–June 1984*, at 1, in *1983/1984 Annual Report*, *supra* note 267, at Appendix 22.

270. *Id.* at Appendix 2.

271. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Retrospective Conversion Final Report* [5] (June 17, 1986), in *1985/1986 Annual Report*, *supra* note 223, at Appendix 20.

272. *1985/1986 Annual Report*, *supra* note 223, at 5.

The Binding and Circulation Departments were also heavily involved in the Retrospective Conversion Project. While the Cataloging Department supervised the reclassification, recataloging, and inputting of bibliographic information into RLIN, the Binding Department labeled thousands of volumes, many of which had never before been labeled. The Binding Department also sent an increased number of volumes to the bindery because project staff found hundreds of volumes which needed maintenance.²⁷³ Meanwhile, the Circulation staff retrieved volumes from remote storage for processing, returned the volumes when project staff no longer needed them, and rearranged items on the shelves so that all of the volumes, both those in remote storage and in the law library, could be found using their new Library of Congress call numbers.

The Retrospective Conversion Project was the culmination of the technical services advances made during the Law Center years. This project, along with several smaller projects in the 1960s and 1970s which decreased the cataloging backlog and reclassified the treatise collection, provided a foundation on which the Law Library could build its future. Inputting the bibliographic information for all of the Law Library's fully cataloged items into RLIN paved the way for the installation of an online catalog and completing the reclassification of the collection improved access to the collection and assisted the staff in designing the Library's new facilities in the Boyd Law Building.

Public Services

Throughout its history, the Law Library has taken many steps to insure as much convenience for its users as is possible consistent with the need to ensure a secure collection and equal access to materials for all patrons. During the Law Center years, the Library developed several new methods to increase access to library resources. The Library also implemented steps to improve the access which was already available to patrons.

For faculty, the Law Center years saw the creation in 1978 of a basic faculty library²⁷⁴ and permission to shelve some materials in their offices on long-term loan.²⁷⁵ For students, generous library hours were maintained. Starting in 1961, the Law Library was open 84 hours a week.²⁷⁶ This figure increased in 1966 when the library also remained open during the dinner hour.²⁷⁷ For the first few years in

273. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Binding Department Annual Report Fiscal Year 1983/84*, at 3, in *1983/1984 Annual Report*, *supra* note 267.

274. *Faculty Library Established*, Iowa Advocate, Winter 1978-79.

275. *1976 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 97, at 35.

276. *Law Center's Facilities Open to Attorneys*, Iowa Advocate, Fall 1962, at [4]

277. Memorandum from the University of Iowa Law Library to Law Students, Sept. 19, 1966

the Law Center, the Law Library continued a practice begun in the Law Building, providing keys to a few law students whose unusual work loads required after-hours access.²⁷⁸ This practice ended in 1971 at which point the Law Library locks were changed and new keys issued only to students working on the law review.²⁷⁹ To replace this privilege, the Law Library extended its hours on weekdays and Sunday²⁸⁰ and, for a brief period, even permitted students to remain in the law library after hours if they were present at the time the library officially closed.²⁸¹

The Law Library also attempted to increase access through entrances on three different levels during library hours.²⁸² This proved unworkable because these entrances were also exits and many items were improperly removed by patrons through those exits.²⁸³ An inventory of the collection during the 1976–1977 fiscal year indicated that books valued at around \$25,000 had been improperly removed from the collection by library users.²⁸⁴ At that time, George Strait, the Library Director, determined that the Library had to take greater action to secure the collection against theft. As part of the new Law Library policy, “the doors on levels ‘B’ and ‘C’ of the library” were closed²⁸⁵ and “law students leaving the law library [were] channeled through the main entrance of the facility, where a guard. . . [examined] the books to see if they [had] been checked out properly.”²⁸⁶ One year later, the installation of a 3M Tattletape Security System eliminated the last step; guards were no longer needed to check patron’s bags before they left the Law Library.²⁸⁷

The Law Library took many steps to improve access to its collection. One of these methods was increasing available reference assistance. During most of the Law Center years, understaffing did hamper this service; for example, a 1962 article in the *Iowa Advocate* warned that “since Miss Heriot [the Library Director] does most of the library research personally, discretion and consideration must be

(on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

278. University of Iowa Law Library, *Use of the Library* [2] (1963–1964) (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

279. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report for Circulation, 1971/1972*, at 3 (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

280. *Id.*

281. *Id.*

282. Larry Eckholt, *U of I puts a guard on its Lawbooks*, July 25, 1977.

283. *New Law Librarian Discusses Library Problems*, *Iowa Advocate*, Fall 1976, at 9.

284. Eckholt, *supra* note 279.

285. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1976/1977* [hereinafter *1976/1977 Annual Report*], at 1.

286. Eckholt, *supra* note 279.

287. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report, 1977/1978*, *supra* note 246, at 1.

exercised in the requests and demands which are made of her; patience must also be forthcoming when waiting for an answer to a request made to her.²⁸⁸ Following the 1967 addition of a full-time cataloger, the Assistant Law Librarian, Catherine Murray, redirected her efforts from cataloging to improving reference services.²⁸⁹ As a result of Murray's efforts, the University of Iowa Law Library established a reference desk, manned on a part-time, rotating basis by all members of the professional staff.²⁹⁰ Although the service was well received, insufficient professional staff limited the number of requests which could be answered.²⁹¹ Not until 1976 did the Law Library hire its first full-time Reference Librarian.²⁹²

In addition to reference assistance, the Library's professional staff continued to present lectures on legal research both to law students and to students from many other departments, such as library science,²⁹³ business, and mass communications.²⁹⁴ For the law students, the library staff offered "Legal Bibliography," a series of lectures which students attended during their first year of law school.²⁹⁵ In 1976, the course consisted of eight hours of lecture.²⁹⁶ Three years later, only six and one-half hours were required.²⁹⁷ A 1980 petition by the students who objected "to the length of the lectures, the amount of information presented in each lecture and the long assignments following the class," requested that the course be revised further.²⁹⁸ The curriculum committee and the library staff, responding to the petition, redesigned the course into the format which was used for the remainder of the Law Center years,²⁹⁹ constructing "[e]ntirely new problem sets and in-class teaching aids" and compressing the lectures into four hours.³⁰⁰

In addition to teaching legal research skills to first-year law students, the reference staff, following the 1978 installation of LEXIS³⁰¹ and the 1983 installation of

288. *Law Center's Facilities Open to Attorneys*, Iowa Advocate, Fall, 1962, at [4].

289. *1967/1968 Annual Report*, *supra* note 248, at 2.

290. *Id.* at 3.

291. *Id.*

292. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Public Services Annual Report, July 1, 1975 through June 30, 1976* at [2] in *1975/1976 Annual Report*, *supra* note 243.

293. *1967/1968 Annual Report*, *supra* note 248, at 5.

294. *1975/1976 Annual Report*, *supra* note 243, at 5.

295. *1967/1968 Annual Report*, *supra* note 248, at 5.

296. *1976/1977 Annual Report*, *supra* note 285, at 7.

297. Kathy Kendall, *Changes Proposed for Law Class*, Daily Iowan, Feb. 20, 1980, at 5.

298. *Id.*

299. *Id.*

300. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Reference Department Annual Report, 1979/1980*, at 1 in *1979/1980 Annual Report*, *supra* note 216.

301. Diane E. Galanis, *Law Library Implements Major Improvements*, Iowa Advocate, Spring/Summer 1978, at 1.

WESTLAW,³⁰² trained second- and third-year students to use computer-assisted legal research. The systems, welcomed as “an adjunct to manual legal research” for retrieving relevant cases and statutes,³⁰³ were extremely popular with the students, especially with those hired as research assistants for faculty members.³⁰⁴ In order to use LEXIS and WESTLAW, students were required to attend a videotaped lecture and hands-on training conducted in small groups.³⁰⁵ Organizing and offering training sessions, according to the 1978/1979 Annual Report, required “the largest share of the reference librarian’s time”³⁰⁶ During the 1978–1979 year alone, the reference staff trained 271 students in the use of LEXIS.³⁰⁷

The Iowa Law Center years saw several increases and improvements in the public services offered by the Law Library. Access to the collection was increased through extended hours, the creation of a basic faculty library, and, for a short time, entrances on all three levels of the library. The Public Services staff, during this period, focused attention on improving information retrieval as well, offering organized reference assistance and lectures on legal research, both in print and online.

The Boyd Law Building, 1986–2009

The Facilities

During May, 1986, the University of Iowa Law Library moved out of its severely overcrowded quarters in the Iowa Law Center and into its current home in the Boyd Law Building. In the Boyd Law Building, “[t]he Law Library . . . [was] the centerpiece [of the building],” occupying “more than 60 percent of the building’s 200,000 square feet of space. . . .”³⁰⁸ The 1985/1986 Annual Report stated that “[t]he library left a facility of 25,000 square feet to gain a facility of 76,571 square feet. The seating capacity . . . almost doubled—from 360 to 673.”³⁰⁹

Staff workspace in the new facility more than doubled as well.³¹⁰ In the Law Center, only 1,350 square feet were dedicated for Library staff use. However, the

302. 1983/1984 Annual Report, *supra* note 267, at 5.

303. Galanis, *supra* note 298, at 1.

304. Law Library, University of Iowa, Annual Report, 1978/1979 [hereinafter 1978/1979 Annual Report], at 7.

305. Reference Department Annual Report, 1979/1980, *supra* note 297, at 1.

306. 1978/1979 Annual Report, *supra* note 301, at 7.

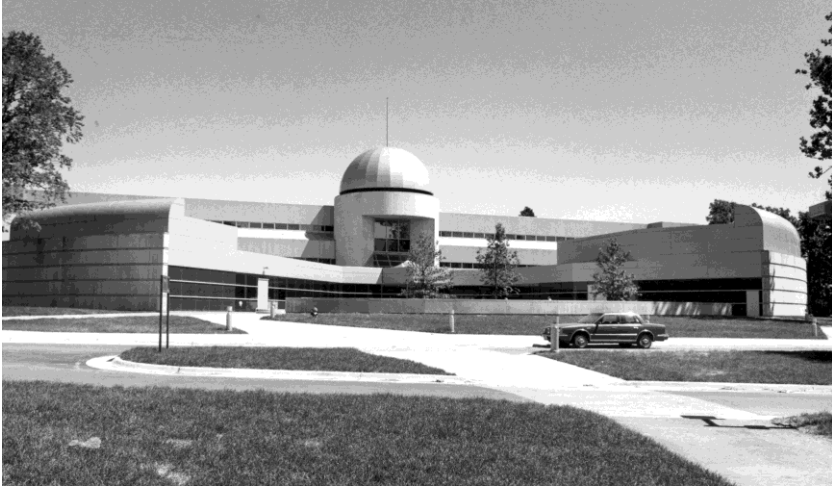
307. *Id.*

308. *The Boyd Law Building*, Iowa Alumni Review, Nov./Dec. 1986, at 19.

309. 1984/1985 Annual Report, *supra* note 175, at 10.

310. 1985 Library Self-Study, *supra* note 183, at 6.

space assigned for staff use actually served many different purposes. It was used as staff office space, for WESTLAW and LEXIS training, and for mail sorting. On the other hand, the Boyd Law Building contained approximately 4,700 square feet exclusively for library staff. In addition to the space allocated for staff offices, the new library facility in the Boyd Law Building initially contained a separate mail room, two small library seminar rooms, a library staff conference room, and a facility outside the Library near faculty offices in which to install a small, separate faculty reference library.



Boyd Law Building in 1986.

The most dramatic space improvement, however, was in shelving for the collection. In the Law Center, the Law Library had approximately 38,000 linear feet of shelving with an estimated capacity of 250,000 volumes.³¹¹ The four floors of the new Library facility in the Boyd Law Building contained 111,000 linear feet of shelving with a capacity estimated at that time of almost 800,000 volumes. In addition, planners, recognizing that the Law Library had a long history of outgrowing its quarters, designed the building so that the entire ground floor of the library could be converted to compact shelving that would, it was estimated at that time, increase the capacity of the Law Library to about 1,000,000 volumes.³¹²

Space was not the only improvement achieved through the move into the

311. *1984/1985 Annual Report*, *supra* note 175, at Appendix 13.

312. University of Iowa, *College of Law* 21 (1987) (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library). (claims about 1,000,000 capacity, but time has demonstrated that in fact that figure should be about 850,000–900,000.)

Boyd Law Building. Within the walls of the new facility, several portions of the Law Library collection had much higher quality of housing than they had ever had before. In all of the previous buildings, special collections such as the Hammond Collection and the Leist Collection had been very poorly housed. In the Law Center, for example, these rare volumes had been stored in the musty, damp basement of the Library.³¹³ In the new Boyd Law Building, however, “all of these materials [were] housed in closed stacks in a temperature and humidity controlled [Rare Books] room which [was designed to be] fire protected and well ventilated.”³¹⁴ Unlike the prior Law Library facility, use of rare materials in the new facility could also be supervised “in an adjacent, beautiful rare book display room.”³¹⁵ As a result, the rare books collection of the University of Iowa Law Library could be protected from both environmental hazards and theft for the first time in the Law Library’s history.

Audio/visual materials also benefited from additional protection within the new facilities. As discussed in the 1985 Self–Study Report, in the Law Center “these materials [were] housed in files located in the stacks; . . . [t]he microform readers . . . [were] in a noisy crowded area” and no supervision was available.³¹⁶ In the Boyd Law Building, the audio/visual materials and the equipment required for their use were combined with the loose–leaf filing and long distance information request services to become the Special Services Department, located in a secure room on the first floor of the library. The Special Services room, which contained twelve individual carrels, two new machines for reading and printing from microform materials, and one machine for producing fiche–to–fiche copies, was to be open to the public only when staff was available to assist patrons in finding requested information and in using the equipment.³¹⁷ In subsequent years a third reader printer for microforms, a machine that could convert microform materials to digital formats, a fax machine, and equipment to view video materials were added to this room. The new Special Services room was also planned to hold many cabinets to house the Law Library’s microform collection, consisting mainly of microfiche and microfilm. By 2008, that room was filled to capacity with 94 microfiche and 61 microfilm cabinets as well as three cabinets to house CD–ROMs and DVDs. .

313. College of Law, University of Iowa, *Self Study Report 1985* [hereinafter *College of Law, 1985 Self–Study Report*], at V–6.

314. *Id.* In fact, it turned out that the Rare Books room was not adequately temperature and humidity controlled. As a result, in the summer of 2003 mold had to be removed from books in that room and the entire room treated to prevent a recurrence.

315. *Id.*

316. *Id.* at V–7.

317. *Id.* at V–6.



Lower entrance to Law Library from Grand Avenue.

Response to the new building was overwhelmingly positive, especially from students. One third year student remarked: “The new building makes you feel like you’re actually in a top law school . . .”³¹⁸ Katherine Belgium, the Executive Law Librarian from 1985 to 1995, noted that “library users have said . . . [the law library] is quiet, light and airy, [and] comfortable” and that it provided a study environment far superior to the old Law Center facilities.³¹⁹ The new quarters contained adequate seating for almost all of the students. It contained about 232 seats at tables, lounge-type furniture near the newspaper and magazine racks, and 381 three-sided carrels with lockable shelves, lighting, and electrical outlets assigned for the use of second- and third-year students.³²⁰ The new Law Library facilities also contained 60 large, closed carrels, thirty-eight of which were reserved for faculty use. Of the remaining closed carrels, twenty-two housed student computer stations. Some of these closed carrels were, from time to time, assigned to students with special disability needs.

Between 1986 and 2009 there were several alterations of the physical facilities of the Law Library and a great deal of other equipment was added. Technologi-

318. *New Building Opens to Rave Reviews*, Iowa Advocate, Spring/Summer 1986, at 15.

319. *Id.*

320. *College of Law, 1985 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 183, at V-10.

cal changes provided the driving force behind many of the alterations. In 1989, the Library converted its only two seminar rooms, areas intended for journal authority checks³²¹ and group study meetings, into permanent WESTLAW and LEXIS learning centers.³²² When WESTLAW and LEXIS withdrew their support in 1997 for dedicated stations accessing those electronic databases,³²³ the Library combined the former WESTLAW learning center room and the word processing room into a newly constructed computer learning center.³²⁴ This new Computer Lab “included 21 new Pentium workstations for the students attached to the law school LAN [local area network], 1 teaching workstation, a projector and screen . . . and a sound system.” At the same time, the Library remodeled the former LEXIS learning center into a Print Lab, consolidating all student printing options, including the WESTLAW and LEXIS printing, in one location,³²⁵ so that students could use these printers from any connection to the Law School LAN. The rewiring of the Boyd Law Building during the summer and fall of 1999 further expanded patrons’ access to library resources by linking all student and faculty library carrels to the Law School LAN.³²⁶ Wiring the individual carrels permitted users of all carrels to access WESTLAW, LEXIS, the library catalog, and the Internet through their personally owned laptop computers.³²⁷ In the summers of 2004 and 2005, a wireless system was added to all levels in the Library, and upgraded in 2008, so that students working at all tables in the Library could also access the Internet from their portable computers.³²⁸

The Law Library adapted its physical facilities to respond to the needs of its staff and its growing collection. In an effort to increase staff efficiency and improve the working environment,³²⁹ the areas dedicated to the Circulation Department³³⁰

321. *Id.* at V-9.

322. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1989/1990* [hereinafter *1989/1990 Annual Report*], at 12.

323. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1996/1997* [hereinafter *1996/1997 Annual Report*], at 11.

324. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1997/1998* [hereinafter *1997/1998 Annual Report*], at 19.

325. *Id.* at 20.

326. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1999/2000* [hereinafter *1999/2000 Annual Report*], at 11.

327. *Id.*

328. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2004/2005* [hereinafter *2004/2005 Annual Report*], at 15.

329. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1998/1999* [hereinafter *1998/1999 Annual Report*], at 17.

330. See Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1992/1993* [hereinafter *1992/1993 Annual Report*], at 18 and *1996/1997 Annual Report*, *supra* note 323, at 12



Overhead view of student carrels in Boyd Law Building.

and to the Technical Services Department³³¹ were reorganized twice between 1992 and 1999. Collection growth, however, necessitated more extensive changes to the facilities. After only 10 years in the Boyd Law Building, the microform cabinets that were purchased as part of the original equipment for the Audiovisual Room were filled to capacity with 1,092,876 microforms, the equivalent of 242,557 bound volumes.³³² To accommodate more microform cabinets, the adjacent room, previously used as a Government Documents office, was combined with the Audiovisual Room in order to enlarge the latter's capacity and functionality.³³³

331. See 1997/1998 *Annual Report*, *supra* note 324, at 20 and 1999/2000 *Annual Report*, *supra* note 326, at 12.

332. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1995/1996* [hereinafter 1995/1996 *Annual Report*], at Appendix 9.

333. 1996/1997 *Annual Report*, *supra* note 323, at 15.

While this reallocation of space and additional cabinets temporarily relieved some of the spatial pressure caused by the growing microform collection, the 2002/2003 Annual Report acknowledged that the “Law Library has [again] run out of cabinets for its microform collection . . . [and] needs an additional 14 . . . microfiche base cabinets with 14 . . . microfilm overfiles as soon as possible” to adequately house the growing microform collection.³³⁴ These additional cabinets were added in the summer of 2004.

Adequate shelving for print materials also presented an enormous challenge for the Law Library. Although Katherine Belgum estimated that the original configuration of the library would adequately “house the collection until the year 2003,”³³⁵ the Law Library’s annual report for 1998/1999 stated that the Library was “approaching a crisis in its book shelving capacity. [A research library is considered functionally full at 85% and] [t]he Law Library book shelving is now over 75% full.”³³⁶ To deal with this shelving crisis, since 1996 the Law Library’s collection had to be shifted constantly³³⁷ in order to use the available shelving more efficiently.³³⁸ As a result, in February 1999 the University’s Central Administration approved funding for converting all of the book shelving on the ground floor of the Library from stationary to compact shelving. That installation was completed in August 2001.³³⁹ The new compact shelving was estimated to provide “about six years of additional shelving space at our current growth rate. . . before the Law Library runs out of space.”³⁴⁰ Since no further expansion of book shelving within the current facility appears possible, the Law Library will be forced to resort to off-site storage of some of the books in its growing collection in the near future.³⁴¹

By 2004 it was clear that the Law Library had outgrown its assigned space in the Boyd Law Building. Growth in the hardcopy book collection during the twenty-three years in the Boyd Law Building facilities and the anticipated rate of annual future growth of that collection made it clear that by 2008 the book shelving capac-

334. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2002/2003* [hereinafter *2002/2003 Annual Report*], at 20.

335. *College of Law, 1985 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 310, at V-6.

336. *1998/1999 Annual Report*, *supra* note 329, at 21.

337. *Id.*

338. See *Shifting the Collection*, Law Library News Briefs, Aug. 1996, at [1]; *1997/1998 Annual Report*, *supra* note 324, at 17; *1999/2000 Annual Report*, *supra* note 326, at 12-13.

339. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2000/2001* [hereinafter *2000/2001 Annual Report*], at 16.

340. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2001/2002* [hereinafter *2001/2002 Annual Report*], at 16.

341. *2002/2003 Annual Report*, *supra* note 334, at 21.

ity of the Law Library would be functionally full, with no discernable possibility of expanding that capacity within the existing facility.³⁴² In addition, growth of the full-time library staff from 23 to 33 in the twenty-three years since the Law Library moved into the Boyd Law Building had resulted in very overcrowded, non-functional staff work space, which urgently needed to be remedied.³⁴³ The circulation area of the Library had also become wholly inadequate for the volume of business and reserve functions that needed to be conducted there.³⁴⁴ And the Rare Book Room, which was completely full by 2005, needed to be doubled in size to house the many irreplaceable rare books that were currently on open access shelving in the Library.³⁴⁵ The microform storage cabinets, which filled the Special Services room to its capacity, were also projected to be full by 2008 and, therefore, the space available in that room also needed to be expanded in the next few years. In addition, by 2008 there was general agreement that the heavily used Library Computer Lab was inadequate in size to accommodate the number of student workstations in that facility necessary for the current computerized teaching that occurred in the Library, and that it needed to be reconfigured to make it a more functional teaching facility.³⁴⁶ The fact that the student body of the Law School was, by 2005, persistently 75–100 students larger than anticipated at the time the Boyd Law Building was designed, and the fact that the size of the faculty had significantly expanded since that time, also created a need to add more student and faculty carrels to the Library. Finally, experience during the period 1990 to 2008 demonstrated the continuing need for space within the Law Library for the two group study rooms that were originally included in the Library but that were lost due to other encroaching space needs of the Law School and Library.

As a result, the Law Library was very much in need of substantial additional space 23 years after moving into the Boyd Law Building. Two possibilities for satisfying the very substantial space needs of the Law Library were proposed. The first was to move a significant number of lesser used hardcopy volumes in the Library's collection to an offsite campus book storage facility shared with the Main University Library that would store existing volumes sufficient to remodel the Library's physical facility to satisfy its existing space needs and to store about fifteen years of projected growth in its hardcopy collection. In 2005, the University Central Administration began the planning for such a facility and appeared to

342. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2003/2004*, at 25.

343. See *2004/2005 Annual Report*, *supra* note 328, at 25.

344. *Id.*

345. *Id.*

346. *Id.*

be committed to its construction as soon as funding could be obtained. For the longer term, another alternative solution to the space needs of the Law Library was discussed within the College of Law. That alternative was to build an entirely new building for the Law Library adjacent to the existing Boyd Law Building. Such a separate Law Library building would have adequate space for all of the present and future Law Library needs that had become apparent by 2008, leaving the existing space in Boyd Law Building for the rest of the Law School program which is also in urgent need of significant additional space for its functions. Everyone realized, however, that an entirely new building for the Law Library was a much longer term aspiration for solution of the Law Library space needs than the shorter term book storage facility whose planning was already underway.

Growth of Information Resources

When the Law Library vacated its facilities in the Iowa Law Center in 1986, its information resources collection contained 541,046 volumes and volume equivalents making it the ninth largest collection among academic law libraries in terms of volumes and volume equivalents. In 1986 the collection also contained 155,126 different individually cataloged separate titles ranking it at that time tenth among all law school libraries in terms of that measure of collection quality. Development of the information resources collection during the last few years in the Law Center had been challenging due to acquisitions budgets that did not keep pace with inflation. For the 1985–1986 academic year, a static budget with ten percent inflation forced the Law Library to reevaluate its selection policies and cancel many lesser priority subscriptions.

In the years following the move into the Boyd Law Building, the inadequacy of the acquisitions budget grew steadily worse in relation to the rapidly growing overall price of information resources. The recurring acquisitions budget saw only slight increases each year and, although the Law Library received some additional non-recurring allocations later in each fiscal year, increases in the total annual acquisitions budget did not keep pace with inflation. “In the 1990–91 year, for example, the weighted inflation rate for the prices of legal periodicals was an astounding 21.4 percent.”³⁴⁷ In fact, “between 1984 and 2003, the overall prices of the books, periodicals, continuations, and microforms purchased by the Law Library increased cumulatively by well over 248%.”³⁴⁸ During this same period,

347. Arthur E. Bonfield, *A Great Collection in Peril*, Iowa Advocate, Spring/Summer 1995, at 11.

348. *2002/2003 Annual Report*, *supra* note 334, at 2.

the acquisitions budget of the Law Library only increased by 57.4%.³⁴⁹ Therefore, by 2003, this gap between the growth in the annual recurring acquisitions budget and the annual inflation in the materials it purchased during those twenty years resulted in a decrease in the actual annual purchasing power of the Law Library's acquisitions budget of over \$530,000 a year.³⁵⁰

The effect on the Law Library's acquisitions program was severe. Inasmuch as the 1985–1986 fiscal year saw the refinement of selection policies and the de-selection of many duplicate subscriptions, continuing financial troubles meant canceling items the library still needed. In a memorandum to the faculty on July 10, 1986, Arthur Bonfield, who had been appointed to head the Law Library in 1985 as Associate Dean for Research, explained the effect of the reduced purchasing power of the acquisitions budget for the 1986–1987 academic year. He indicated that for that year, all updates for the faculty library would be canceled and “all purely current affairs recreational reading in the library and faculty lounge” would be canceled, and “the purchase of many, many other items. . . [would] be eliminated or delayed.”³⁵¹ Bonfield also announced that, due to financial stringencies, the LEXIS Educational subscription for the 1986–1987 academic year would have to be terminated;³⁵² but a subsequent agreement between the College of Law and Mead Data Central maintained LEXIS access for the faculty and students for that academic year.³⁵³

Between 1984 and 2003, the adverse effect of the shortfall in the acquisitions budget due to its failure to keep pace with the high rate of inflation in law book prices was far more significant. During this period, almost 3,500 standing orders for existing subscriptions were canceled.³⁵⁴ By 1995 alone, “somewhere between 26,000 and 30,000 law-related volumes that should have been added to the collection . . . were not added because of a lack of funds.”³⁵⁵ The purchase of updating supplements to treatises already in the collection was especially hard hit. The Law Library discontinued the costly annual supplementation to many of its secondary sources, relying instead on the less expensive, periodic repurchase of the titles

349. *Id.*

350. *Id.*

351. Memorandum from Arthur E. Bonfield, Associate Dean for Research, University of Iowa College of Law, to the Faculty of the University of Iowa College of Law 2 (July 10, 1986) (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

352. *Id.*

353. Memorandum from N. William Hines, Dean, University of Iowa College of Law, to Mary Finnegan, Senior Education Representative, Mead Data Central (Oct. 6, 1986) (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

354. *2002/2003 Annual Report*, *supra* note 334, at 2.

355. Bonfield, *A Great Collection in Peril*, *supra* note 338, at 12.

in updated form. The 1992 Annual Report stated: “The theory behind . . . [this] policy [of updating treatises only at four or five year intervals] is that, to some extent at least, recent developments contained in the omitted treatise updates can be discovered in this library. . . by using primary law research tools rather than treatise supplementation.”³⁵⁶

While such tactics permitted the library to provide its users with access to a wider range of materials than otherwise would have been possible, it meant that, in some respects, the collection became “much less current than it needs to be in the rapidly changing field of law, where current information is absolutely essential for both academic and professional purposes.”³⁵⁷ In a 1995 article, Associate Dean Bonfield argued that “something must be done to increase very significantly the acquisitions budget of the Law Library so that further deterioration in the quality of its nationally outstanding collection is halted, and at least some of the materials that could not be acquired in recent years are retrospectively added to the collection.”³⁵⁸ Bonfield urged an increase in the Law Library’s acquisitions budget large enough to return the purchasing power of the acquisitions budget to the position it occupied in 1985; he also pressed for “future annual increases in . . . [the Law Library’s] acquisitions budget that are at least equal to the current inflation rate for law books.”³⁵⁹

Despite the financial difficulties the Law Library was facing, the collection continued to grow by over 16,000 bound volumes and thousands of additional microform volume equivalents each year. Significant acquisitions obtained at little or no cost played an important role in this growth. Transfers of important materials which the Law Library did not own from other State libraries, for instance, strengthened many parts of the collection. As part of an agreement between the Law Library and the University Main Library designed to consolidate holdings within specific subjects in order “to make access easier for the user and to ensure upkeep of these important collections,”³⁶⁰ the Law Library acquired through a transfer from the Main Library approximately 1,300 volumes covering Roman law and Canon law in 1988,³⁶¹ over 400 volumes on the Council of Europe in

356. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1991/1992* [hereinafter *1991/1992 Annual Report*], at 6.

357. Bonfield, *A Great Collection in Peril*, *supra* note 338, at 12.

358. *Id.*

359. *Id.* at 12–13.

360. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report, 1987/1988* [hereinafter *1987/1988 Annual Report*], at 5.

361. *Id.* at 6.

1992,³⁶² 341 volumes of the Congressional Serial Set in 1998,³⁶³ and about 2,200 volumes of foreign law and secondary materials related to law in 2001–3. The Law Library also received very substantial transfers of materials from the State Law Library in Des Moines, including the latter's entire Canadian collection³⁶⁴ and several hundred volumes of British materials. During this period, the State Historical Society in Iowa City also transferred to the Law Library "over 2,000 volumes of historical state legislative journals."

Gifts from individuals and other institutions also played a significant role in the development of the Law Library's collection in recent years. During the 1999–2000 fiscal year alone, about 4,000 new titles were added to the collection as the result of such gifts. Examples of such gifts include 5,154 bound volumes of the United States Court of Appeals Records and Briefs for the District of Columbia from the Georgetown University Law Library, and hundreds of volumes of the *Official Gazette of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office* from the General Motors Company Law Library and from the AT&T Archives.

Two entirely new special collections within the Law Library were the result of gifts. In 1997, a collection of over 2,500 books by and about the United States presidents were added to the collection through a gift of Professor Willard Boyd,³⁶⁵ and a legal fiction collection, initially "consist[ing] of about a thousand works of fiction in all genres, as well as legal humor, satire, and plays, ... was made possible by a generous gift... by Nicholas and Helen Rossi."³⁶⁶ In addition, a gift from Professor Emeritus Samuel Fahr enabled the Law Library to purchase a comprehensive collection of Mexican legal materials, and a gift by Professor Arthur Bonfield permitted the acquisition of substantial microform sets of the papers of three United States Supreme Court Justices—Louis Brandeis, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Felix Frankfurter—relating to their service on that court. Finally, Professor Mark Sidel gave the Law Library over 400 volumes of Chinese law.

The largest special acquisition at no cost to the Library budget was the result of a grant. In 1994, the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust gave the Law Library \$200,000 "to purchase a microfiche set of all the documents produced by the United Nations since the international body's founding in 1945."³⁶⁷ Associate Dean Bonfield proclaimed that "[t]he grant will strengthen the law library's already distinguished

362. 1991/1992 Annual Report, *supra* note 356, at 5.

363. 1998/1999 Annual Report, *supra* note 329, at 4.

364. 1991/1992 Annual Report, *supra* note 356, at 5.

365. 1997/1998 Annual Report, *supra* note 324, at 5.

366. *Law Library Legal Fiction Collection*, Law Library News Briefs, Aug. 2001, at [3].

367. *Grant Provides U.N. Documents to Library*, Iowa Advocate, Spring/Summer 1994, at 25.

international and comparative law collection”³⁶⁸ At the time of the grant, the College of Law had just introduced an advanced law degree in International and Comparative Legal Studies and it was hoped that the acquisition of the United Nations collection would make the University of Iowa “the foremost institution in the Midwest relative to U.N. research and, by extension, the major international and comparative law research center in the region.”³⁶⁹ This acquisition was also consistent with the effort of the Law Library during the period after its move to the Boyd Law Building to significantly strengthen and expand its foreign, international, and comparative law holdings, including its holdings in international trade law and international human rights law.



Associate Dean for Research Arthur Bonfield.

During the first twenty-three years in the Boyd Law Building the Library also added to or completed many important retrospective collections of legal materials in microform—the only format in which these particular materials were currently available. For example, the Library completed its microform collection of United States House and Senate Bills and its retrospective microform

368. *Id.*

369. *Id.*

collection of all state session laws. Through a special grant from the University Central Administration, the Law Library was also able to acquire on microfilm a comprehensive historical collection of the papers of the NAACP relating to the legal struggle for racial equality in this country. Between 1987 and 2003, the Law Library also acquired on microfilm the Records and Papers of the American Civil Liberties Union, 1917–1989, and two collections of ACLU Archives, 1912–1950 and 1950–1990. In addition, during this period the Library purchased a microform collection which includes nearly 15,000 different nineteenth-century British and American legal treatises from the Harvard Law School Library, and a microform collection of British and American early twentieth-century legal treatises from the Harvard and Yale Law Libraries. The Library also purchased the law subset of an eighteenth-century microform collection which includes all the holdings of the British Library covering the development of the law in the British Empire during the eighteenth century. Finally, in 2004–2005, using a combination of public and private funds, the Law Library acquired in microform a worldwide collection of Human Rights Documents, a collection of all Human Rights Watch publications, Hein's Superseded State Statutes and Codes for all of the states, Records of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, the Puerto Rico Legal Defense and Education Fund Records, and a collection of the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service related to specified subjects.

In recent years the Law Library has made a special effort to improve user access to materials already in the collection, in particular, the Law Library's many microform sets. While patrons could discover the existence of these sets through the Law Library's online catalog, they could not discover individual titles within the microform sets without consulting the print guides for each of the sets. Beginning in 1990, the Law Library sought to improve patrons' ability to locate resources within microform sets by purchasing electronic batch cataloging for all microfiche sets in the collection for which such cataloging was available. The loading of batch cataloging for microform sets into the online catalog system created online, bibliographic records for each individual title within the sets,³⁷⁰ significantly increasing the ability of Law Library patrons to discover valuable resources already within the Library's collection.

During the first twenty-three years in the Boyd Law Building, the Law Library was acutely aware of the dramatic changes occurring in the storage and accessibility of information resources. More and more legally related information was becoming available in electronic form, either through online systems such as

370. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1990/1991*, at 6.

WESTLAW and LEXIS, through the Internet, or in other electronic forms such as CD-ROMs. The Iowa Law Library made a special effort to provide its users with easy access to every electronic database focused on or directly relevant to the law, including purchasing three Making of Modern Law Digital Archives modules—Legal Treatises, 1800–1926, Trials, 1600–1926, and U.S. Supreme Court Records & Briefs, 1832–1978—and two collections of U.S. Congressional documents—the Readex U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1817–1980, and the Lexis–Nexis Congressional Hearings Digital Collection, 1824–2003. In addition, as noted earlier, an ever-increasing number of historical collections of materials were becoming available in microform formats. Here, again, the Law Library made a special effort to acquire all useful historical collections of legal and legally related materials that became available in those formats. In short, the University of Iowa Law Library committed itself to making available to its patrons the widest possible variety of materials relating to the law without regard to the format in which they were presented.

To successfully accomplish this result, during the period 1986–2009 the Library made substantial investments in information resources available in each of the available media formats. This diversification of storage media for information made it possible for the Library to provide its users with access to a much wider variety of legally related information than would otherwise have been possible. In some cases, the diversification of information media facilitated more efficiency in the use of the Library's information resources budget because, where information was available in several different formats, the library usually purchased it in the cheapest format. In most cases, however, the proliferation of different formats for the storage of information useful to Law Library users resulted in an unavoidable significant increase in Library expenditures for this purpose. To handle the increased costs associated with the acquisition of information in electronic form the Law Library proposed, and the University Central Administration and Board of Regents authorized, the imposition on all law students of a student computing fee.³⁷¹ The proceeds of that fee were to be used, in the following order: first, to purchase electronic databases for the Law Library; second, to purchase computing equipment in the Law Library for student use; and third, to employ staff to support student computing services and training in the Law Library. This annual student computer fee enabled the Law Library to buy all useful electronic databases, to

371. *1987/1988 Annual Report*, *supra* note 360, at 1. See also Arthur E. Bonfield, Associate Dean for Research, University of Iowa College of Law, "Financing Law Student Database Facilities" (February 25, 1988) (unpublished document on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

replace student computers in the Library every three or four years, and to hire one and three-quarters staff to support student computing in the Library.

The Law Library realized that over time there would be substantial shifts in the proportions of the information it acquired in each of the several different storage media—print, microform, and electronic. In the long term, it expected to acquire more and more information in electronic form. Nevertheless, during the first twenty-three years in the Boyd Law Building, the dominant form in which information was acquired, stored, and made available in the Law Library remained the traditional, hard copy print format. Indeed, a 1999 study at the University of Washington Law Library suggested that only about 13% of the information resources in an academic legal research library are currently available on LEXIS or WESTLAW and are likely to be available in the near future in electronic format,³⁷² and that figure is likely to be significantly lower for a very large and comprehensive collection of legal information of the size and diversity of the University of Iowa Law Library.

The Law Library collection grew significantly during the first twenty-three years it was located in the Boyd Law Building despite the inadequacies in its acquisitions budget. This was due to very careful and efficient use of its limited information acquisitions resources, and the large number of special acquisitions obtained at little or no cost through gifts. In 1986, at the time it moved into the Boyd Law Building, the Law Library held 541,046 volumes and volume equivalents and was ranked as the ninth largest academic law library in the country.³⁷³ By July 1, 2008, the University of Iowa Law Library collection contained 1,233,072 volumes and volume equivalents, improving its ranking on the basis of volumes and volume equivalents to the second largest academic law library and largest public law school library in the United States.³⁷⁴ Its hardcopy collection in 2008 contained 815,368 bound volumes, fourth in the size of its hardcopy bound print volume collection among all law school libraries and first among all public law school libraries.³⁷⁵ From 1986 to 2008, the Law Library also significantly improved its ranking from eleventh to second in terms of the number of different, individually cataloged separate hardcopy, microform, and electronic titles held

372. Penny A. Hazelton, *How Much of Your Print Collection is Really on WESTLAW or LEXIS-NEXIS?*, 18 Legal Reference Services Q. 3, at 4 (1999).

373. *Comparative Statistics*, *supra* note 229, at [1].

374. Law Library, University of Iowa, *University of Iowa Law Library Comparative Statistics for 7/1/85 (Date Arthur Bonfield became Associate Dean for Research) and 7/1/08* [hereinafter 2008 *Comparative Statistics*], at 1 (on file in the University of Iowa Law Library).

375. *Id.*

in its collection.³⁷⁶ In 2008, the Law Library had 769,596 different, individually cataloged separate titles in all formats—print, microform, and electronic—in its information resources collection.³⁷⁷ Of these, 324,920 different individually cataloged separate titles were in hardcopy bound print format.³⁷⁸ On the basis of its hardcopy bound print format titles alone, the Iowa Law Library ranked third among all law school libraries and first among all public law school libraries.³⁷⁹

Progress in the development of its information resources collection was possible during the first twenty–three years in the Boyd Law Building only through the cancellation or periodic staggering of supplementation to such resources, the narrowing of some of the Library’s selection policies, the significant reduction in the duplication of such materials, and an active and very successful effort to obtain gifts or transfers from other institutions or individuals of valuable legal research materials at little or no cost. However, these strategies unfortunately made the Library’s collection of secondary information resources somewhat less current than desirable to serve the needs of its users and made some kinds of materials that would have been helpful to its patrons unavailable in the Law Library.

Personnel and Administration

During the Law Center years, the Law Library was severely understaffed. At the time it moved into the Boyd Law Building in 1986, the Library had a total of 23 FTE employees: 7 in Public Services, 14 in Technical Services, and 2 in Administration. Several of these Technical Services employees were only temporary employees funded on nonrecurring short–term funds to accomplish a three year retrospective conversion project to convert all of the hard copy library cataloging to electronic form. Responding to the Law Library’s most critical needs, the staff positions added during the Law Center years were primarily for Technical Services. After the move into the Boyd Law Building, however, the creation of additional Public Services positions became essential and the highest priority. In the new building, the Law Library needed more staff to handle and to facilitate the use of its new facilities that were much larger than the old quarters. For example, the Library now needed at least two employees present at all times the Law Library was open to ensure adequate services and security. As a result, the highest priority after the move into the new building became the addition of more full–time night and weekend staff for the circulation desk.³⁸⁰

^{376.} *Id.* at 2.

^{377.} *Id.*

^{378.} *Id.*

^{379.} *Id.*

^{380.} *1985/1986 Annual Report, supra* note 223, at 13.

For the first several years in the Boyd Law Building, part-time employees performed most of the night and weekend duties. During the Law Library's first year in the Boyd Law Building, two part-time reference librarians helped to cover the night and weekend hours.³⁸¹ Between 1986 and 1997, the Law Library hired five additional full-time Public Services employees. These new employees were hired for staggered shifts so that the schedules of permanent employees ensured that the Law Library had two people on duty at all times the Library was open.³⁸²

Overall, in the new building—from 1986 to 2008—the Law Library had a net gain of ten full-time positions. Although job descriptions changed in many cases, the size of the Technical Services staff remained fairly constant, adding only one half-time position during this period.³⁸³ On the other hand, the Public Services function added nine and one-half positions—two circulation assistants,³⁸⁴ one Audiovisual Room assistant,³⁸⁵ two reference librarians,³⁸⁶ one Foreign, International and Comparative Law Librarian,³⁸⁷ one and one-half time computer support positions,³⁸⁸ one Student Computer Support Librarian,³⁸⁹ and a Head of Circulation Librarian.³⁹⁰

Of course, in addition to ensuring adequate staffing for the Law Library on nights and weekends, these new Public Services positions served other important objectives. For instance, the additional staff permitted the Audiovisual Room to be open on nights and weekends and permitted reference assistance to be extended into the evening and weekend hours. The creation of an Advanced Legal Research course, a Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Research course, other short specialized courses, and improvements in the Legal Bibliography classes offered all first-year law students, were made possible only by the addition of the three professional Public Services librarian positions during this period.

By 2008, therefore, the Law Library had a total full-time staff of 33. According

381. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1986/1987* [hereinafter *1986/1987 Annual Report*], at 2.

382. *See 1987/1988 Annual Report, supra* note 360, at 3.

383. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2005/2006*, at 10.

384. *1986/1987 Annual Report, supra* note 381, at 2; *1996/1997 Annual Report, supra* note 323, at 7–8.

385. *1995/1996 Annual Report, supra* note 332, at 6.

386. *1986/1987 Annual Report, supra* note 381, at 2; *1994/1995 Annual Report, supra* note 326, at 1.

387. *2002/2003 Annual Report, supra* note 334, at 7.

388. *1997/1998 Annual report, supra* note 324, at 11; *2001/2002 Annual Report, supra* note 340, at 9; *2004/2005 Annual Report, supra* note 328, at 10.

389. *2001/2002 Annual Report, supra* note 340, at 9.

390. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2006/2007*, at 5.

to the 2007/2008 Annual Report, the University of Iowa Law Library “has been seriously understaffed when compared to libraries of similar collection sizes and missions. The size of the full–time staff . . . is inadequate in relation to the services our users have consistently demanded and in relation to the services that should be provided [to] them”³⁹¹ As noted earlier, the Law Library ranked 31st among accredited law school libraries in total full–time equivalent professional and support personnel in 1985.³⁹² On July 1, 2008, the Law Library ranked 14th among accredited law school libraries in total full–time equivalent professional and support staff.³⁹³ It is clear that to manage an information resources collection that is second in size among all academic law libraries and to “provide services in relation to use of the Law Library collection and facilities that is adequate to meet the needs of its constituents,” the Law Library needs more personnel.³⁹⁴



Executive Librarian Katherine Belgum with Associate Dean Bonfield.

The most significant change in administration of the Law Library from 1985 to 2008 resulted from the reorganization of the Law Library’s management and leadership structure. The first step in this reorganization occurred following

391. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 2007/2008*, at 9.

392. *Comparative Statistic*, *supra* note 229, at 4.

393. *Id.*

394. *Excerpts from the College of Law Strategic Plan, 1990–1995*, *Iowa Advocate*, Spring/Summer 1989, at 12.

the retirement of George A. Strait, the Law Library Director from 1976 to 1985. In 1985, the College of Law Search Committee for a successor to George Strait “recommended a new style of administration for the library”³⁹⁵ under which administrative responsibility for the library would be split between an Associate Dean for Research and an Executive Law Librarian. The Law School Search Committee recommended the appointment of an Associate Dean for Research who was a senior tenured regular faculty member and distinguished scholar and who would have “oversight responsibility for all aspects of the library, including all library policy and budgetary decisions.”³⁹⁶ Arthur Earl Bonfield, John Murray Distinguished Professor of Law and later Allan Vestal Distinguished Chair, was appointed to this position in 1985 and served in this position since that time. The Law School Search Committee also proposed the creation of an Executive Law Librarian who would be a professional librarian and experienced library administrator who would be responsible to the Associate Dean for Research and have day-to-day responsibility “for the operation of all technical and public services of the Law Library.”³⁹⁷ From 1985 to 1995, Katherine G. Belgum, who was at the time a sixteen-year veteran of the Law Library staff and Associate Law Librarian,³⁹⁸ held the position of Executive Law Librarian and supervised the daily operations of the Law Library. Following Belgum’s retirement in 1995, Mary Ann Nelson, who had previously held positions at the University of Minnesota, Washington University, and the University of Texas, assumed the role of Executive Law Librarian.³⁹⁹

The Dean and faculty decided to adopt this entirely new administrative structure for the Law Library with the hope that if the head of the Law Library (the newly created Associate Dean for Research) was a regular tenured senior faculty member who was a distinguished scholar in the law—rather than in library science or law librarianship—that person could better represent the Law Library to the University Central Administration, would better understand the scholarly needs of law students and law faculty who are the primary users of the Law Library, and could more effectively resist pressures on the Library to do things that were not in the long-term scholarly interests of the law school community as a whole. In any case, this administrative structure was unique in contemporary American

395. *1984/1985 Annual Report*, *supra* note 175, at 1.

396. *College of Law, 1985 Self-Study Report*, *supra* note 310, at V-10-V-11.

397. *Id.*

398. Jean Florman, *Forward-Looking Manager Made Change Her Ally*, *Iowa Advocate*, Spring/Summer 1995, at 14.

399. Jean Florman, *New Executive Librarian*, *Iowa Advocate*, Spring/Summer 1995, at 16.



Mary Ann Nelson, Executive Law Librarian 1995–

law libraries because it placed at the head of the Law Library a regular senior member of the law faculty rather than a librarian during the two decades of the greatest growth in the Law Library's information resources in its history, and in the period of the most substantial growth of its staff in its history. The confluence of these two events, the new administrative structure of the Law Library headed by a regular senior member of the Law School faculty who was a nationally recognized scholar in the law, and its unprecedented growth in quality, may not have been entirely coincidental. Indeed, during the period Professor Arthur Bonfield occupied this position, from July 1, 1985, to 2008, the information resources of this law library on the basis of volumes and volume equivalents rose from tenth to second among all law school libraries and from tenth to second on the basis of separately cataloged different individual hardcopy and microform titles among all law school libraries. During that period, the total Law Library staff also grew from 23 FTE, which included several temporarily funded short-term employees, to 33 permanently funded FTE.

In 1993, an internal restructuring of the Law Library staff created a Head of Public Services position. The Law Library had created a Head of Technical Services position in 1976. This position was first occupied by Donna Hirst and then by Caitlin Robinson. However, the supervision of Public Services remained with the Associate Law Librarian until 1985, and then with the Executive Law Librarian from 1985 to 1993. In an effort to augment the Library's Public Services staff and

to release the Executive Law Librarian from the burden of directly supervising the delivery of all public services, supervisory responsibility of the Circulation, Reference, and Special Services Departments was transferred on July 1, 1993, to a new Head of Public Services, a position filled through the promotion of then Head Reference Librarian Val Russell.⁴⁰⁰ When Val Russell retired at the end of 2004, Theodore Potter was selected to replace her as the Head of Public Services.

During the 1990s the Law Library produced two self-studies and developed two versions of a comprehensive strategic plan for its information resources development, its public and technical services, and its facilities and internal administration. These strategic plans embodied the aspirations of the Library to become one of the very best academic law libraries in the United States and were considered and approved by the entire law school faculty.

In sum, during the first 23 years in the Boyd Law Building, there were several structural changes in the administration and organization of the Law Library staff, and the Library had a net gain of ten positions to its staff. The major personnel issue facing the Law Library, however, remained the same as that faced during its years in the Law Center. The level of staffing in the Law Library remained less than optimum to service its collection and to provide needed services to its patrons.

Technical Services

During the first 23 years in the Boyd Law Building, the Law Library completed many technical services projects that were started during the Law Center years. For example, the reclassification of the collection was finally completed in 1994, making the University of Iowa Law Library one of “the first of the large law school libraries to accomplish total reclass to the LC [Library of Congress] classification system.”⁴⁰¹ The most substantial project completed during the Boyd Law Building years, however, was library automation. In 1983 “the Law School had at its disposal almost \$1,000,000 from Law Building bonding funds to enable it to execute the automation of the Law Library.”⁴⁰² Although neither the University Libraries nor University Central Administration had funds available at that time for the purpose of library automation, the Law Library, “in response to a report of the Committee on Library Automation, . . . decided . . . to enter into a partnership with University Libraries for the creation and operation of a joint library

400. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report, 1993/1994* [hereinafter *1993/1994 Annual Report*], at 3.

401. *1994/1995 Annual Report, supra* note 371, at 1.

402. Memorandum from Arthur E. Bonfield, Associate Dean for Research, University of Iowa Law Library, to Shelia D. Creth, University Librarian, University of Iowa Libraries [1] (May 7, 1993) (on file in University of Iowa Law Library).

automation system, with Law as one of the two pilots within the system.⁴⁰³ Of the initial \$1,000,000 available for automation, “Law spent about \$400,000 of its Law Building bonding money on the retrospective conversion of its collection, [records to electronic form], and almost \$600,000 for the additional ADP [Administrative Data Processing] computer capacity and software necessary to start the joint library automation system.”⁴⁰⁴

Once the Law Library’s collection was physically settled into its new Boyd Law Building home, the preparations for automation intensified. Only one year after the Law Library moved into its new facilities in the Boyd Law Building, the joint library automation system, the Online Access System for Information Sources, or OASIS, was installed in the Law Library.⁴⁰⁵ An article in the *Iowa Advocate* reported: “Thirteen [electronic] public terminals in the Law Library now give library users access to its entire cataloged collection.”⁴⁰⁶ Using the new automated catalog, patrons could search for “bibliographic, location, and holdings information” by author, title, and subject;⁴⁰⁷ the ability to search by keyword was added later.⁴⁰⁸ It was determined that the paper catalog containing hundreds of thousands of paper cards would be removed from the Law Library within one year of the installation of OASIS, making the electronic, online system the only means for searching and accessing the Law Library collection.⁴⁰⁹

The implementation of OASIS created many changes in the Law Library environment. On July 1, 1987, the card catalog was formally closed. That meant that no new cards would be added to the card catalog.⁴¹⁰ In response to the new online environment, the Law Library created a new division within the Technical Services Department, the Bibliographic Processing unit. This new division was “responsible for the initial searching of new titles to be ordered, . . . [for] the creation of the order record, and . . . [for] the tracking of the record after the ordered item comes into the library and goes through the ‘cataloging’ process.”⁴¹¹

Late 1987 and early 1988 also saw the automation of the acquisitions process. The 1987/1988 Annual Report stated: “The continued implementation of OASIS,

403. *Id.*

404. *Id.*

405. *Law Library Automated*, *Iowa Advocate*, Fall/Winter 1987–88, at 8.

406. *Id.*

407. *Id.*

408. *Id.*

409. Lyle Muller, *Computer Logs U of I Law Books*, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Aug. 21, 1987, at 12A.

410. *1987/1988 Annual Report*, *supra* note 360, at 8.

411. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Annual Report 1988/1989* [hereinafter *1988/1989 Annual Report*], at 7.

the computerized library system, had a tremendous affect on acquisitions. The Law Library. . . [as] the pilot project, [was] the first library on campus to order, receive, and pay for materials 'online.'⁴¹² During the transition from manual to automated processing of acquisition functions, the frustration level was high as "procedures were sometimes automated . . . , sometimes manual, and sometimes duplicated."⁴¹³ By May 1988, however, the "payment interface system was working rather well and no more vouchers were typed in the acquisitions department."⁴¹⁴ The Annual Report for the following fiscal year declared that "beginning in July 1988, all new acquisitions were ordered using the OASIS system."⁴¹⁵

Several years passed before the final OASIS function, circulation, was brought online. The 1993–1994 Annual Report noted that "implementing circulation began with intensity in 1993 with the writing of procedures and manuals for both the Technical Services personnel and the Circulation personnel."⁴¹⁶ Before the Law Library could process its circulation records online rather than on paper, the Library staff had to prepare the collection by barcoding every volume eligible for circulation. Although "the technical services staff had begun barcoding new receipts of monographs as early as 1989, . . . [there were] still . . . over 380,000 volumes without barcodes [in 1993]."⁴¹⁷

The retrospective barcoding of the collection was completed during a sixteen month project under the direction of the Bibliographic Processing Librarian. From September 1992 to August 1994, project employees barcoded and created item records for ninety percent of the collection, excluding non-circulating materials and government documents.⁴¹⁸ Many items, however, were barcoded at the circulation desk as part of the check out process because the implementation of automated circulation could not wait for the conclusion of the retrospective barcoding project. On August 9, 1993, the Law Library finally implemented automated circulation on the OASIS system, completing the automation of the Law Library.⁴¹⁹

The Law Library and University Libraries began planning for migration to a new Integrated Library System in 1997 due to the elimination of technical sup-

412. 1987/1988 Annual Report, *supra* note 360, at 6.

413. *Id.*

414. *Id.* at 7.

415. 1988/1989 Annual Report, *supra* note 411, at 6.

416. 1993/1994 Annual Report, *supra* note 400, at 1.

417. *Id.* at 2.

418. *Id.*

419. *Id.*

port and updating for the existing system by its vendor.⁴²⁰ “In the spring of 1998, with funding tentatively approved, system migration planning suddenly moved to the ‘fast track,’” with the establishment of functional staff teams to develop criteria for a new system selection.⁴²¹ Following demonstrations by four vendors in December 1998, the selection committee chose the Ex Libris client–server system to replace OASIS.⁴²² On August 4, 2000, the new web–based public catalog, InfoHawk, was introduced to the public.⁴²³ Law Library staff participated in every step of the migration, from planning to implementation. As the 1999/2000 Annual Report stated: “The migration to the new local online system has involved every staff member in some way and has been a major time commitment for the Law Library.”⁴²⁴

The Law Library initiated two other noteworthy Technical Services projects during its first twenty–three years in the Boyd Law Building. The first project improved access to the federal government publications held by the Law Library. Government publications, excluded from the both the retrospective conversion of the library catalog to electronic form project and the retrospective barcoding project, were finally added to the OASIS system through the 1993 tape–loading of MARCIVE records, which contained electronic bibliographic information for Government publications published from 1976 to the present, and through manual conversion of pre–1976 titles to electronic form.⁴²⁴ The final step, barcoding of these materials for automated circulation on the OASIS system, occurred during the spring and summer of 1994.⁴²⁵

The second project involved the migration of the Law Library’s source for bibliographic records from RLIN to OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) in 1995–96. Following a comparative study of RLIN and OCLC in 1994, the Law Library concluded that its “primary utility for cooperative cataloging and inter-library loans” should be OCLC. Although the Law Library determined that the OCLC system was better suited to most of the current cataloging and interlibrary loan needs of the Library, it decided that local cataloging would still be sent to RLIN,⁴²⁶ thereby maintaining a link with the Research Libraries Group (RLG). This decision increased the Law Library’s ability to serve the Interlibrary Loan needs of its patrons by providing two systems—OCLC and RLIN—through which

420. *1997/1998 Annual Report, supra* note 324, at 22.

421. *Id.* at 15.

422. *1998/1999 Annual Report, supra* note 329, at 17.

423. *2000/2001 Annual Report, supra* note 339, at 11.

424. *1993/1994 Annual Report, supra* note 400, at 2.

425. *Id.* at 14.

426. *1994/1995 Annual Report, supra* note 371, at [12].

the Law Library could request materials it wishes to borrow on a temporary basis from other institutions.

In sum, from 1986 to 2009, the Law Library accomplished many significant Technical Services goals. The largest project completed was library automation. During the summer of 1987, the tasks of the cataloging department were automated and the card catalog was converted to an online system, making OASIS the primary access to the Law Library collection. Over the next year, acquisitions activities were automated. Implementing the final phase, automated circulation, required five more years, during which time the Law Library conducted a retrospective barcoding project for every book in its collection and added its federal government publications to the OASIS system. With the discontinuation of support for the OASIS system, the Law Library migrated to a new Integrated Library System named InfoHawk between 1998 and 2000.

Public Services

Most of the public services the Law Library offered its patrons in the Iowa Law Center were also offered in the Boyd Law Building. Extensive hours of operation, however, were not so easily transferred to the new Law Library facilities. In the Law Center, the Law Library, using part-time student help for late evening coverage, remained open 108 hours per week.⁴²⁷ The Boyd Law Building was a much larger library facility and contained much more valuable equipment than the prior home of the Library. As a result, “safety and security reasons made exclusive reliance on part-time student help in the evenings impossible” in the new Library facility. Because the Library had insufficient permanent staffing to cover late evening hours, the hours of Library operation in the Boyd Law Building were limited to ninety-four per week during the summer of 1986.⁴²⁸ This new schedule was extremely unpopular with law students who, during the fall semester, became very vocal in their objections to the more limited Library hours. As a result, the Library requested and received special funding to extend Library hours to 103 per week;⁴²⁹ closing time returned to midnight on Sunday through Thursday rather than the 11:00 p.m. closing imposed during the summer of 1986 because of staff limitations.⁴³⁰ During the 1988–1989 academic year, the weekly hours of operation returned to the level offered during the final year in the Law Center,

427. 1986/1987 Annual Report, *supra* note 381, at 3.

428. *Id.*

429. *Id.*

430. Lyle Muller, *Law Library Grants Student Plea for Extra Time*, Iowa City Press Citizen, Feb. 24, 1987, at 3A.

108 hours per week. This level was subsequently reduced slightly to 105.5 hours per week and remained at that level thereafter.

In addition to assisting patrons in their use of the information resources available in the Law Library, the expanded professional Public Services staff in the new building focused its attention on and expanded legal research instruction for the law students. During the last year in the Law Center, the reference librarians expressed dissatisfaction with the structure of the Legal Bibliography program. This discontent led to repeated adjustments to the program, revising how, what, and where legal research was taught. For the 1986–1987 academic year, the year after the Law Library moved to the new Boyd Law Building, the first-year Legal Bibliography course consisted of four lectures, research problems, and training on WESTLAW and LEXIS, taught by representatives of the vendors.⁴³¹ (Prior to 1987, the training on WESTLAW and LEXIS was offered only to second- and third-year students and was taught by the Reference staff.) During the 1990s further refinements in the Legal Bibliography program resulted in a four-part course presented over three semesters. During the fall semester of their first year, students attended two sessions that introduced primary and secondary resources. During the spring semester of the first year, students attended the second two parts of the course, four lectures on basic legal research using hard-copy statutory, case, and updating resources, followed by hands-on training on WESTLAW and LEXIS taught by both representatives of the vendors and by Law Library professional staff. Finally, during the fall semester of their second year, students attended three additional lectures on standards of judicial review and court rules, legislative history, and administrative law resources.

In addition to basic legal research instruction, since 1997 the Reference staff taught an Advanced Legal Research course limited to 30 students. The Advanced Legal Research course was offered on a pass–fail basis for two credit hours each Spring semester. In this course students were taught to “formulate . . . rational and efficient research methodolog[ies], . . . to expand their skills in using primary American legal sources . . . in all types of information formats,” and to develop effective research techniques for the use of electronic resources, such as WESTLAW, LEXIS, CD-ROM technologies, and the Internet.⁴³² The Advanced Legal Research course was so successful that there was demand for additional sections of the course. As a result, starting in 2005, a section of Advanced Legal Research was added to the Law School’s summer school schedule. However, the

431. *1986/1987 Annual Report*, *supra* note 381, at 9.

432. Law Library, University of Iowa, *Advanced Legal Research syllabus* 1 (January, 1997) (on file in University of Iowa Law Library).

Advanced Legal Research course provided students with only a brief introduction to foreign, comparative, and international materials.⁴³³ As a result, since 2003 students interested in these areas of legal research have also been offered a one-credit Foreign, Comparative, and International Legal Research course taught by the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian. Finally, during the period the Law Library was located in the Boyd Law Building, the reference staff taught many shorter noncredit methods of legal research sessions to groups such as Law Review or other Journal students, LL.M. students, and students enrolled in certain upper-class specialized courses where the instructor requested such a session, and for certain groups of undergraduate or graduate students in the University.

The new facilities in the Boyd Law Building also allowed the Law Library to offer its users several new public services. The most popular of the new services was word processing. In November 1986 thirty-two computers workstations were installed in the Law Library for the use of its patrons, twelve in a word processing room on the first floor and twenty in closed carrels on the ground floor.⁴³⁴ (As noted earlier, the word processing room was later combined with the former WESTLAW learning center room to create a computer lab.) From four of these original computer workstations, students could print documents on an IBM Page Printer that was located in the Special Services department.⁴³⁵ During the subsequent years, the number of these computer workstations was increased and the equipment was upgraded several times. By 2004 there were 41 student computer workstations in the Library, all attached to the College of Law's local area network; and since 1999, all student workstations and all student and faculty carrels in the Library were connected to printers and to the Law School LAN.⁴³⁶ As a result, students may use either the Library work stations or their own laptops at their carrels to access LEXIS, WESTLAW, e-mail, internet resources, and word processing software and, with the installation of networked printing in the spring of 2000, can send print jobs to laser printers and bill their University Bills rather than buying a copycard.⁴³⁷

In sum, from 1986 to 2008, the Law Library attempted to increase and improve the public services it provided to its patrons. During the Law Library's two decades in the Boyd Law Building, the addition of more reference librarians, a

433. *Id.*

434. *1986/1987 Annual Report*, *supra* note 381, at 7.

435. *Id.* at 7–8.

436. *1999/2000 Annual Report*, *supra* note 326, at 11.

437. *Id.* at 11–12.

Foreign, Comparative and Comparative Law Librarian, a Student Computer Support Librarian, and a Head of Circulation Librarian, substantially increased the quantity of reference services provided by the Library, facilitated significant improvements in Legal Bibliography instruction programs for students, and provided student access to all kinds of computing services, including online research, word processing, and printing.

Conclusion

Since its creation in 1868, the University of Iowa Law Library has endeavored to create a first-rate collection of information resources and provide adequate services to its patrons. While attempting to meet these goals, the Law Library has faced many obstacles. Inadequate facilities plagued the Law Library in each of the College of Law's first three homes, the Old Capitol, the Law Building, and the Iowa Law Center. Its most recent quarters in the Boyd Law Building are now becoming inadequate as well. Even though the Law Library has occupied the Boyd Law Building for only twenty-three years, it has already almost run out of shelving in its current facility for the Library's growing collections of books and microforms.

Through much of the Law Library's history, the Library's ability to create a first-rate collection of information resources was seriously restricted by insufficient acquisitions budgets. This was especially true during the Old Capitol years, 1868 to 1910, when the allocated funds were insufficient to purchase even the most essential resources such as a complete set of American case reporters. During the last 20 years, the Law library has had to cope with a serious shortfall in its budget for the acquisition of information resources because the total allocations for such acquisitions have not kept pace with the cumulative rate of inflation in the prices of law-related publications. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the actual purchasing power of the Law Library's acquisitions budget during that period. Fortunately, efficient utilization of its acquisitions budget, adherence to a clear set of priorities, and the successful solicitation of major gifts to the Law Library of valuable legal materials from other institutions and private individuals have helped to ameliorate that problem at least temporarily. But those sources cannot be counted on in the future to make up for the very substantial current deficiencies in the size of the Law Library acquisitions budget.

The greatest obstacle faced by the Law Library in providing adequate services to its patrons has been insufficient personnel. Although the Law Library has had many dedicated librarians and support staff during its 141 years of existence, the

staff of the Law Library has always been too small in relation to the size of its collection, the size of the faculty of the College of Law, and its student enrollment. This shortfall in staff has created significant obstacles for the Law Library in its effort to provide its patrons with all of the library services they need.

Despite the many challenges the Law Library has faced during the almost century and a half of its existence, this Library has much of which to be proud. The University of Iowa Law Library was one of the first of the large law school libraries in the United States to reclassify its entire collection into the Library of Congress system. It was also one of the first large academic libraries in this country to have all of its cataloging, acquisitions, and circulation functions performed through an online electronic system. In addition, this Library has managed to offer its patrons a higher level of professional reference assistance for more hours each week than most similar law school libraries.

Most important, however, the University of Iowa Law Library has accomplished its primary mission with exceptional distinction, the creation of one of the most comprehensive and exhaustive collections of legal information resources in the United States. Its 2009 collection of over 1,260,524 volumes and volume equivalents ranked it as the second largest law school library collection among all law school libraries in the country on that basis; additionally, the University of Iowa Law Library's holdings of 948,593 different separately cataloged hardcopy, microform, and electronic titles ranked it as the second largest collection on that basis among all law school libraries in the country. In 2008, only the Harvard Law School Library reported that its information resources collection contains more volumes and volume equivalents and more individually cataloged separate titles in its collection than the Iowa Law Library. This, truly, is an accomplishment of which this institution can justly be proud. It should also be noted that this objective ranking of the Iowa Law Library as one of the very best among all American law school libraries undoubtedly played a significant role in enhancing the national standing of the Iowa Law School during the last two decades when attempts to rank the quality of American law schools became a matter of wide publicity.