

# **Kresge Law Library Strategic Plan 2012-2015**

## **VISION**

To be a great scholarly resource for legal study in the Catholic intellectual tradition in service to the faculty and students of Notre Dame Law School, to the University of Notre Dame, and to the global legal community.

## **MISSION**

The Kresge Law Library exists to provide the necessary scholarly foundation for the conduct of research in the law and to provide space for independent and collaborative study of the law for the faculty and students of Notre Dame Law School. The library supports the mission of the Law School by acquiring, providing access to, and guidance in the use of the best resources in support of the curriculum of the Law School and the scholarly interests of the faculty and students. Additionally, it supports the legal research requirements of the larger university community.

## **FUNDAMENTALS**

The Kresge Law Library is an enterprise devoted to service within our community. We conduct our work in such a way that the Catholic character of the University informs our endeavors. The faculty and staff in the Kresge Law Library work in harmony with the University's mission and communicate the University's values of accountability, teamwork, and integrity in every action. The Law Library delivers the highest level of service to its primary patrons, the faculty and students of the Notre Dame Law School. We embrace the Law School's goals of being a premier legal research center and of offering an unsurpassed educational experience. In order to best contribute to the success of the Law School and the University, the Law Library supports, enhances, and enriches the scholarly and educational experience within the Law School by developing innovative library practices and services, providing exemplary technology support and research assistance, and by offering an authoritative collection of legal resources.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Continue development of an excellent collection, focusing on electronic resources.
  - Acquire materials which support the research needs of the Law School faculty and the curricular needs of Law students.
  - Acquire materials in formats utilized in contemporary law practice and which best support effective legal research.
  - Make electronic resources accessible from multiple platforms, on and off campus, by providing appropriate discovery tools.
  - Guide patrons in the use of all legal resources, including electronic materials.
2. Continue to provide the best possible service to the Law Library's primary patrons by offering excellent research help, fast and accurate access to legal information, and superior technology support.
  - Introduce all students to the basic techniques of legal research and expand opportunities for focused research instruction.

- Provide instruction in the use of new media and research technologies, including ebooks and tablet computers.
  - Build and maintain a meaningful library liaison relationship with Law School faculty.
  - React to patron collection access needs and realign services as necessary.
  - Provide timely and quality customer service to all Law Library patrons.
  - Respond to technology needs of faculty, students, and in classrooms with expertise and efficiency.
  - Proactively explore new technologies, services, and best practices in an ongoing effort to improve services and create a better environment for Law Library patrons.
3. Provide students and other library users with a comfortable, well-equipped, and adequately-staffed physical facility for study, collaboration, and consultation with library staff.
- Create an inviting atmosphere in the library.
  - Maintain and improve the variety of study spaces and services necessary for comfort and utility.
  - Devote attention to appropriate public relations work to educate library users in order to maximize the use of library resources, services, and space.
  - Ensure that collections will be conveniently located, organized, and accessible to patrons.
  - Maintain a friendly, helpful public contact point for all Law Library patrons, make every patron feel welcome, and seek to make the Law Library a stress-free environment for users.
  - Create a working group to assess, plan, and initiate procedures to improve the Law Library's sustainability efforts.
  - Establish a Committee to select, purchase, and place art objects in the Law Library.
4. Develop a law library staff which will be flexible and creative in response to changes in the work environment and which will embrace the vision, mission, and fundamentals of the Kresge Law Library.
- Provide law library staff with sufficient opportunities, resources, and support to work productively and with flexibility in a changing environment, with particular emphasis on increasing technical capabilities.
  - Proactively face changes by reassessing workflows, positions, duties, and departments as necessary in order to position the library favorably in the legal information environment.
  - Foster a workplace of respect and partnership among all members of the Notre Dame law community.
  - Focus attention on improving communication internally and externally.
    - Use the library's wiki to record policies, procedures, decisions and discussions
    - Encourage the use of outside resources for training, information-gathering, and ideas for new initiatives.
    - Share information and spotlight the work and contributions of all staff members.
5. Maintain a robust technical environment capable of providing adequate infrastructure for the library's and law school's information technology and library system needs.
- Create a formal procedure for analyzing new technologies and emerging areas of service.

- Explore the introduction of real-time web-based virtual services for patrons.
  - Explore and adapt to new initiatives and emerging technologies related to bibliographic description and data control.
  - Formally investigate and make recommendations concerning outsourcing of some cataloging functions, keeping in mind particularly issues of quality, timeliness, and potential savings.
  - Create a working group to assess, plan, and initiate procedures for the establishment of a digitization program which will preserve and promote to a wide audience of researchers the unique intellectual products and institutional history of the Notre Dame Law School.
6. Establish and maintain adequate procedures for assessing, acquiring, maintaining, and presenting electronic resources to the library's primary patrons.
- Foster expertise in use of appropriate tools and programs for engaging in best practices in the processing and use of electronic resources, specifically to include:
    - Innovative Interface's Electronic Resources Management System
    - Serials Solutions products and services
  - Redesign positions as necessary to further adjust to the transition toward a collection primarily focused on electronic resources rather than print.
  - Identify and rectify inefficiencies and/or redundancies in electronic resources workflow.
7. Establish and implement services to deal with the preservation of library resources, including special collections, rare books, and archives.
- Create a working group to assess, plan, and initiate procedures to set preservation guidelines and establish special collections policies and procedures.
  - Create a working group to assess, plan, and initiate policies and procedures for the establishment of an archival collection in the Law Library, with specific attention to historical documents relating to the history of the Law School.
  - Retrieve and process rare books held at the Hesburgh Libraries.
8. Collaborate effectively internally and with other organizations in order to create efficiencies and opportunities for innovation and growth.
- Investigate outside funding sources, including grants, to support new initiatives.
  - Communicate with colleagues at the Hesburgh Libraries formally and informally in areas by which both libraries will benefit from mutual support and effort, such as technology, special collections policies, and collection development.
  - Maintain and improve library support of the London law program.
  - Represent the Law Library and Law School in campus-wide programs and initiatives as appropriate.
  - Promote law librarianship through library internships, residencies, and recruiting initiatives.