



Law Libraries & the FDLP

Past, Present, & Future

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Overview

- History
- Types of law libraries in FDLP
- Helping patrons – “ours” & “yours”
- Collaborative projects
- Challenges
- Incentives
- Input from you



History of law libraries in FDLP

- Highest Appellate Courts – since 1972, 37 libraries
- Law Schools – since 1978, 153 libraries
- State (law) libraries, e.g., Arizona
- Public / County law libraries, e.g., San Bernardino County
- Federal agencies, e.g., Federal Reserve Board
- Federal court libraries



History of law libraries in FDLP

- A mix of designation types: congressional, regional, special section
- Mission of each library varies widely
- Law schools sometimes a second depository on same campus, sometimes the only depository for university (main library is selective housing site)
- Over 200 law libraries in FDLP



Case study: St. John's University

- Traditional law school library
- Now also serves growing undergrad programs in law
- Added key service to non-law students – docs instruction, reference
- FDLP collection is a key part of the collaboration
- Even see some undergrads back as (well prepared!) law students
- Incentive to stay in program: collaboration opportunity on campus



Other collaborations

- University of Oklahoma Law is scanning Serial Set docs borrowed from OK Dept. of Libraries, consulting with UO Library for technical expertise; hoping to partner with LLMC-Digital to make publicly available.
- Teaching legal research to law and non-law students/patrons, examples at state libraries, public libraries, and academics.
- Collaborative collection development and weeding projects



Other collaborations

- AALL Hackathon – legal knowledge + free government resources + technical skills = improved access to government information
- Law libraries offer support on programs for library conferences and training programs for non-law librarians – usually in conjunction with docs librarians
- Joint training in new documents areas: visit by UN librarians attended by docs librarians from several libraries



Strengths of law library depositories

- Law librarians are specialists with legal knowledge
 - can explain differences in laws & regulations
 - monitor pending legislation
- Frequently contact legislators and staff
- Comfortable with advocacy work & process
- Example: recent PACER debacle



Articles available from AALL

FDLP page on advocacy section of AALL website:

<http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Advocacy/aallwash/govinfo/FDLPh.html>

Law Librarians on the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer:
a Historical Perspective, by Charlene Cain

(<http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-18/No-5/fdlp.pdf>)

Law Library Depositories: the Next 200 Years, by Peggy Jarrett & Sue
Lyons (<http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-18/No-7/fdlp.pdf>)



Incentives to be in the program

- Collaboration opportunities with other libraries
- Continuing ed opportunities for librarians
- Free primary source law materials & enhanced collection beyond case law – statistics & standards
- Networking opportunities with specialists in other areas
- Having a voice in the system
- pro bono opportunity - serving the public



Challenges

- Access
- Materials processing
- Keeping up
- Patron environment
(can be law students/clerks/pro ses under great stress)



Questions and your input

- Please use the chat box to ask your questions or answer our questions.
- Please send in your ideas or success stories about working with a law library on a documents project.
- What would you like from the law libraries in the depository program?