

Pence Law Library Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023

Fall 2020

Mission Statement

The Pence Law Library is the vibrant intellectual heart of the AU Washington College of Law and is committed to advancing the academic success, and the scholarly, research, and curricular needs of its students. The Library is dedicated to supporting and promoting the teaching and scholarly work of the faculty in their classes, research, and publications.

The Law Library is the place students learn to use the fundamental tools of the profession, providing the highest quality legal and non-legal resources and outstanding services and facilities.

Student Learning Outcomes

- a. The Law Library will promote students' research proficiency by providing resources in multiple formats to enable students to achieve a mastery of substantive legal knowledge.
- b. The Law Library will assist students through various methods of instruction to evaluate and use resources and information to enable them to access resources efficiently, assess their accuracy, currency, cost, and precedential value, and identify bias.
- c. The Library will provide resources and tools to promote and support legal analysis and problem-solving throughout the curriculum, for example, by working in concert with the Legal Rhetoric Program.

Library Services

Goal: Advance state-of-the-art teaching, research, and engaged learning by implementing innovative services.

Strategy: Partner with Legal Rhetoric to introduce, teach, and assess the basic methodology of legal research to the first year class.

Strategy: Integrate library programs, tools, and instruction into curricula and research processes to support the ability of all students, faculty and staff to use and evaluate information critically, ethically, and effectively.

Strategy: Partner with other law school offices to provide programs and services that build the professional skills needed by students and faculty to advance their careers.

Strategy: Partner with other departments and centers within WCL to provide a forum for public lectures, colloquia, and other forums that extend and promote their scholarly and creative work.

Goal: Support and promote scholarship at the Washington College of Law.

Strategy: Support WCL faculty research by continuing a robust faculty liaison program. Assist faculty with teaching, learning and using new legal technologies that promote and

enhance their scholarship and by providing excellent research support for their teaching and scholarship.

Strategy: Enhance the institutional repository Digital Commons @ WCL and maintain the WCL SSRN Legal Studies Research Paper Series, to promote the scholarship of faculty, students, and WCL programs to be available to the academy and the public.

Strategy: Develop collaborative initiatives with the Legal Technology Program to strengthen the legal technology skills of the law school community.

Library Resources

Goal: Comply with ABA Standard 601(b), which states:

A law school shall provide on a consistent basis sufficient financial resources to the Law Library to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities of support to the law school and realize its established goals.

Goal: Use funds responsibly to assure sufficient resources for building a collection that best serves the WCL community, including allocating sufficient funds to personnel, facilities, programs, equipment, and technology to support the goal of providing excellent service.

Strategy: Build external funding sources, including, but not limited to donor support, grants, and Friends of the Library Programs.

Strategy: Maximize library resource/material dollars by working with vendors, and with WRLC for possible consortia purchasing, as well as collection sharing arrangements with other libraries.

Strategy: Participate in national law library surveys (Example: ALLStAR, LSSSE, and other national surveys) that will demonstrate how the Pence Law Library compares with other academic law libraries.

Collection Development

Goal: Develop a relevant collection in appropriate formats to support the curricular, research, and scholarship needs of the faculty and students of the Washington College of Law.

Strategy: Regularly revise the Collection Development Policy so that it reflects budgetary limitations and fits the information needs of the institution.

Strategy: Continue to examine all types of information delivery to eliminate collection overlap and maximize budgetary resources, while prioritizing permanent access to information.

Strategy: Regularly weed the collection by reducing the size of the print collection giving consideration to a growing user preference materials in electronic format.

Strategy: Regularly review database use, usability, currency and costs and make appropriate subscription changes as necessary.

Library and Information Technology Resources

Goal: Enhance findability and simplify access to all library materials, databases, and resources.

Strategy: Reorganize the collection to present print materials in a logical and organized manner, with room for modest growth.

Goal: Use technology to increase work productivity, efficiency, and services.

Strategy: Implement systems and software to support robust resource description, discovery, preservation, that promote intellectual discovery and learning.

Strategy: Identify and provide new courtroom technologies, law practice applications, legal research platforms, E-Discovery systems, and other tools relating to the practice of law and legal research. Establish a technology lab to enable students to explore these technologies.

Library Organization

Goal: Recruit and retain a diverse faculty and staff with the expertise and competence to function effectively in a rapidly evolving information, technological, and educational environment.

Strategy: Assess new and existing responsibilities to optimize use of resources and personnel to respond to the rapidly evolving environment in legal education, technology and information dissemination.

Strategy: Support continuing training and professional development for all library faculty and staff, including funding for memberships, appropriate travel and support for participation in local, regional, national and international associations.

Goal: Ensure that all library personnel have a safe and productive environment that fosters collaboration and innovation while maintaining a customer service-based work environment.

Strategy: Ensure transparency in library decision-making and organizational structure.

Strategy: Foster an organizational culture that encourages respect for the diverse viewpoints of all library personnel and encourages participation in all levels of library decision-making.

Strategy: Engage in long-term planning to enable the library to best anticipate changes in legal education, technology and legal research.

Goal: Improve and standardize internal communication.

Strategy: Enhance mechanisms for managing internal communication by using collaborative software (e.g., SharePoint, Microsoft Teams) to allow for open dialogue

during decision-making and augment staff understanding of job duties, workflows, and administrative operations.

Strategy: Document policies and procedures.

Goal: Design organizational systems and structures that enable employee effectiveness.

Goal: Evaluate purchases and processes to reflect a commitment to sustainable practices for all library operations.

External Engagement and Communication

Goal: Understand our target audiences and their diverse communication preferences

Strategy: Develop target audience profiles to inform communications efforts to better meet user needs.

Goal: Use presentation space and social media to actively engage and educate patrons on our services and resources and to enhance their use of library space.

Goal: Improve communication with patrons to increase awareness and understanding of the value and utility of information literacy.

Strategy: Create materials and provide instruction to help students find and use authoritative sources, recognize bias, understand proper attribution standards, and appropriately use citations.

Goal: Develop a strategic approach to marketing and communication to promote collections, services, and other library resources that are essential to the intellectual life of the law school.

Strategy: Engage AUWCL faculty, staff, students, to raise awareness of and use of library resources and services.

Strategy: Connect law school programs and initiatives with relevant library collections, resources and services. Seek out collaborative opportunities to enable library personnel and resources to be integrated into learning experiences throughout the law school.

Strategy: Collaborate with WRLC, the University Library, and national and local library and legal professional organizations to maximize resources and services available to the WCL community.

Goal: Create consistent, cohesive messaging and branding across the library.

Strategy: Produce eye-catching social media for marketing library services and resources.

Goal: Reimagine library space so that it engages all members of the WCL community and promotes quiet study, collaborative learning, research, access to digital and physical collections

Strategy: Create a space for departments and faculty to engage with students in the library.

Strategy: Create and enhance physical and digital spaces, such as Digital Commons and the Faculty Writings Collection, to showcase WCL scholarship.

Services beyond WCL

Goal: Improve outreach to and services for AUWCL alumni.

Strategy: Continue to support WCL alumni access to journals and other resources through special alumni subscriptions.

Strategy: Provide research support on request to WCL alumni.

Goal: Provide appropriate services to public and government depository patrons.

Appendix

Lessons from the Library's Response to the Pandemic

The Library responded to the pandemic by providing remote services and by making more resources available in electronic format to the WCL community. These new approaches will be incorporated into library operations for use in the future.

Goal: Make Electronic Resources the default option for adding materials to the collection.

Strategy: When examining resources to add to the collection determine whether an electronic option exists and whether it makes pedagogical or fiscal sense to purchase it.

Strategy: Plan, develop, and implement processes and procedures to obtain, present, and then evaluate these resources.

Strategy: Make the purchase and evaluation process regardless of format more efficient and systematic.

Strategy: Explore the possibility of adding an electronic reserve system and/or digital casebook collection to meet student needs when the cost of new casebooks are approaching \$300. Work with faculty to adopt or create open access teaching materials.

Goal: Develop effective communication strategies to alert users to the resources and services available to them remotely through the library.

Strategy: The Library must build on its past efforts at communication with our patrons to better utilize our resources without the physical library and without face to face interaction with students. As the pandemic continues we are gaining experience and building on these skills.

Strategy: Determine the best use of library faculty in delivering service and research instruction to our users in the most effective way possible.