



# 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



EHRHORN LAW LIBRARY

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## **Executive Summary**

The 2016-2017 fiscal year marked the end of our most recent five-year strategic plan and the beginning of another. Shaped by the changing trends in students' use of the library space, the Ehrhorn Law Library focused on providing segmented study space to different patron groups in order to deliver impactful learning experience to our law students. The experience we gained from this new way of thinking and the attendant challenges prompted us to host a workshop on the changing face of library space for academic libraries in the area.

The library converted the former computer lab into a deep quiet study room containing 12 individual study carrels, 10 desktop computers, and a variety of tables and soft seating. We relocated eighteen of the computer lab desktops to another part of the library to create a collaborative digital commons area. With the addition of the 12 new carrels for the silent study area, the library now manages 142 individual study carrels.

Along with the provision of individualized study space, the library expanded its use of metrics for communicating values to the administration and for making strategic decisions. From tracking which areas of the library gets used the most, to what time of the day attracts highest or lowest traffic in the library, we have increasingly relied on evidence-based practices in running the library.

The Access Services department instituted the use of new library usage software. The two new software systems track library usage by area/service and study room. These new programs have been instrumental in indicating peak usage times and services that students use most, thereby allowing library staff to better anticipate and serve student needs.

The fiscal year under review also birthed a responsive students-library staff relationship. Under the “Law Library liaison program,” the library appoints students’ representatives who serve as go-to persons in gauging student satisfaction with library services, and as conduits in communicating students’ concerns about library services.

Furthermore, the University continues to recognize the importance of highly qualified, trained and motivated personnel in delivering excellent customer service. In addition to various webinar classes, our librarians were able to attend professional conferences at the national and state levels despite the present harsh economic realities in many academic libraries. Drawing on the support of the University and Library administration, staff were able to attend professional conferences and library-related courses. Circulation supervisors offer a bi-weekly training for student workers via informational newsletter, online quizzes, and in-person training that focuses on safety policy and procedures.

Our focus is to maintain support for staff professional development and foster strong team building. We pledge to continue innovating our services in the coming years. We further pledge to continue to train and cross-train our staff. Ultimately, we strive to deliver excellence in service, and a conducive environment that promotes exceptional learning and social experience for Liberty Law students and other stakeholders.

### **Collection Development**

In order to fulfill its mission to build an excellent collection of materials for training future leaders in law and to preserve and provide timely access to materials that support legal scholarship rooted in the Western Legal Tradition, the Ehrhorn Law Library added 1,559 unique

titles to the collection during FY 2016-17. Those titles support the instructional and scholarship needs of the law school community.

In order to increase access to supplemental materials and study aids for law students, the Law Library also launched the LexisNexis Digital Library, an ebook collection of popular LexisNexis titles delivered through Overdrive. This three-year program offers students unlimited electronic access to all titles in the following LexisNexis series: Understanding the Law, Questions & Answers, Skills & Values, and Mastering the Law. During FY 2016-17 332 ebooks were checked out from this collection by 78 unique users.

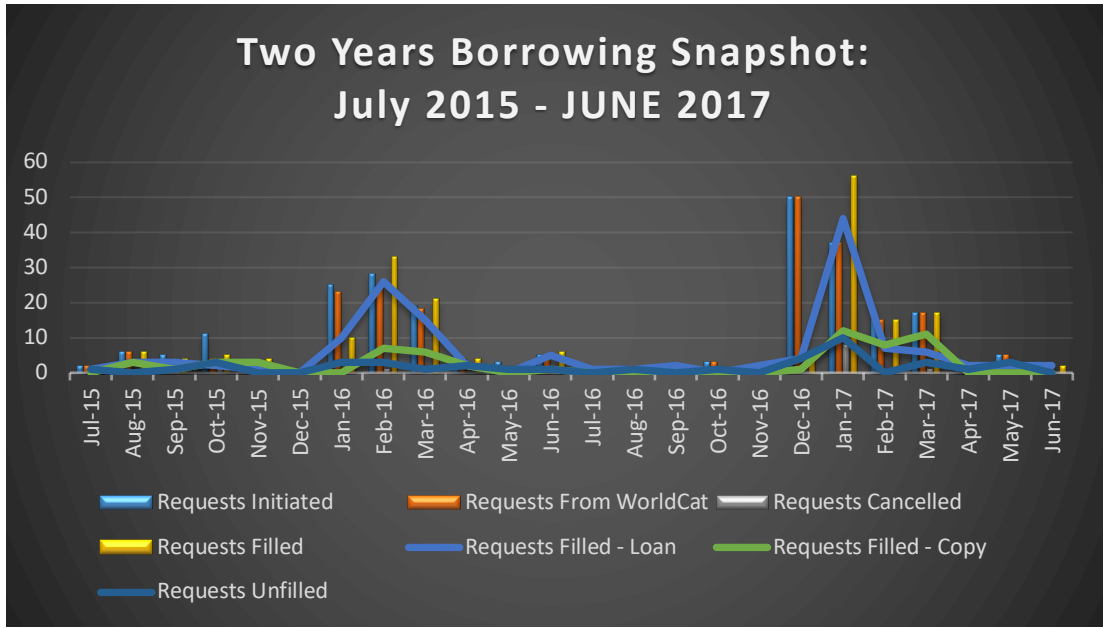
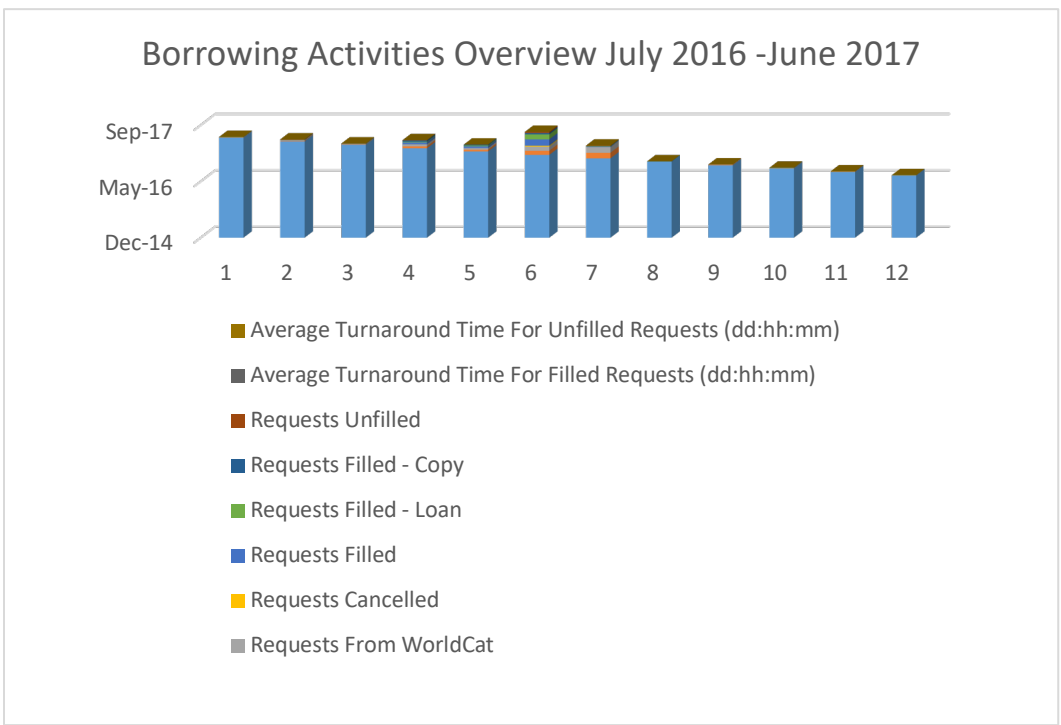
In an effort to reduce redundancy and better manage the acquisitions budget, the law library adopts a preference for online access to certain materials. The Law Library also withdrew 4,452 volumes consisting of state statutes in print. The law library is committed to stewardship of the acquisitions funds allocated. The Law Library relies on electronic access to annotated codes for each of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Print copies of those codes were seldom used, duplicated online, and expensive to maintain. Because they are more frequently used, the Law Library maintains current subscriptions for annotated print statute sets for Virginia and the United States Code. Primary case law from other states generally is accessed by using online resources. The law library maintains a current print subscription to Southeastern Reporter, but has cancelled all other regional reporters. The law library retains retrospective copies of all regional reporters.

At the end of FY 2016-17 the Law Library held 57,387 unique titles. The collection holds 327,167 volumes and volume equivalents.

	<b>7/1/2016</b>	<b>6/30/2017</b>
<b>Titles held (excluding non-book titles)</b>	55,828	57,387
<b>Total volumes (excluding microforms)</b>	113,020	109,818
<b>Total volumes and volume equivalents held</b>	328,805	327,167

### Borrowing Activities: July 2016- June 2017

<b>Total Requests</b>	137
<b>Filled</b>	105
<b>Unfilled</b>	23



**Lending Activities: July 2016- June 2017**

<b>Total Requests</b>	874
<b>Filled</b>	403
<b>Unfilled</b>	468