



THE ERHORN LAW LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The year 2020 was unprecedented due to the malaise of the Covid-19 pandemic. Particularly hard hit were higher education and academic libraries. All but few libraries were closed to physical patron interactions to protect staff and patrons. Remote patron service – leveraging technologies – became the norm. At the same time, academic instructions delivery transitioned to an online format. Some academic institutions were caught unawares by this black swan event. At the Ehrhorn Law Library, we managed to stay true to our mission. This was made possible because of the emergency preparedness that was already in place. In retrospect, we were confronted with the same challenges as did other academic libraries in the country, but our proactive emergency action plan – the hallmark of our service preparedness at the Ehrhorn Law Library – was what set us apart from other academic institutions. Although the Covid-19 practically shut down most universities and their libraries as of March of 2020, our library remained opened albeit with a modified service delivery model that complied with the federal and state health mandates. In compliance with these safety regulations, most of the staff worked remotely for a couple of days per week. This allowed social distancing within the office workspace.

As we start another academic year, our focus – while maintaining our signature excellent service delivery model – will continue to be the safety of our staff and patrons. To that end, study carrels are spaced six feet apart for social distancing. Also, there will be heightened disinfecting of surface areas with high patron traffic and usage. The use of face masks will also be encouraged.

Regarding collection development, we stopped the acquisition of new physical titles in April of 2020 to eliminate the risk of infection associated with the processing and handling of physical books. In anticipation of the financial cut to the Law School's budget as a result of reduced enrolment brought about by Covid-19, the Library's budget was reduced. New books acquisition expenditure was reduced accordingly. Similarly, the Library's budget for professional development was eliminated. Professional conferences already scheduled were axed and substituted with virtual conferences and webinars.

Looking Ahead

Although most libraries were shuttered, the Erhorn Law Library remained opened, albeit, with a modified service delivery model undergirded by safety precautions mandated by the federal and state health authorities.

Despite all the challenges caused by the pandemic, we are optimistic about brighter days ahead. Our service delivery model will continue to evolve in response to our patrons' needs. To this end, technologies will continue to be the hub of our service delivery while retaining the current human touch that continues to add value to the overall learning experiences of our students.

Anthony Ikwueme
Law Library Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission Ehrhorn Law Library's mission is 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.



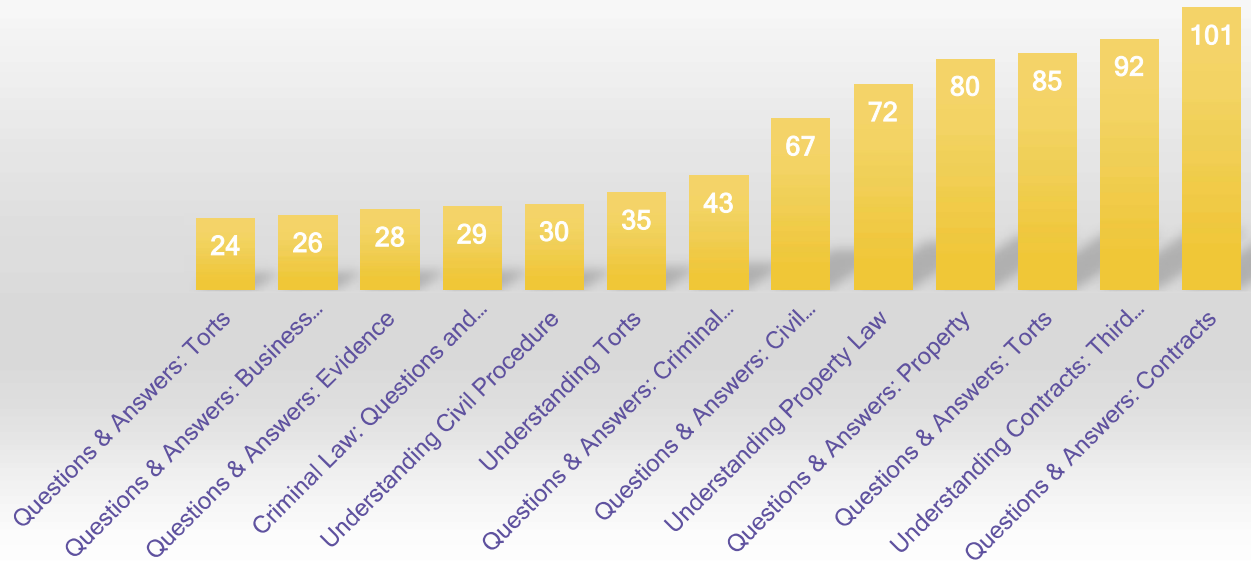
PUBLIC SERVICE

The Covid-19 pandemic created a “new normal” for many academic institutions and libraries. We made a significant number of study materials available in digital format so that patrons could have unimpeded access to our resources and yet keep our staff safe. We also implemented rotating telework or remote work schedule (two days from home and three days in the office every week) for our staff to facilitate social distancing within the Library. Finally, we improved our OPAC system by adding all the current digital items to the catalog utilizing appropriate MARC fields with their URLs. This provided direct links to our resources and offered patrons a “one-stop-shop” experience.

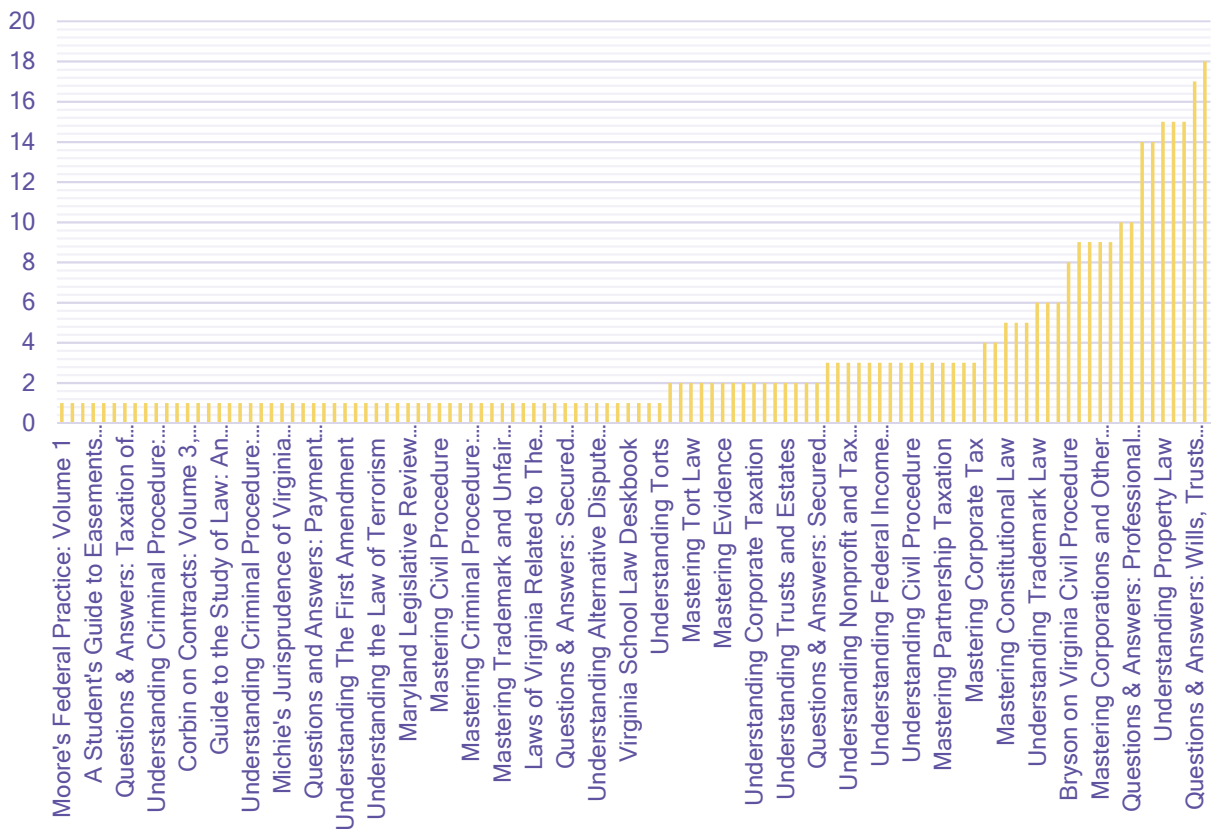
One of the most positive outcomes of the pandemic is our democratization of public service offering by integrating the use of telephone service, email service, email reference service, access to library materials online, and curbside delivery of print and audiovisual library materials into our service delivery model. Chat service and web-based interlibrary loan request and delivery service could potentially become part of our offerings in the future.

The pandemic underscored the importance of virtual service delivery. To this end, Public Service is in the process of establishing a social media presence to facilitate communication with patrons. Other potential services that could become part of our offerings in the future are chat service and web-based interlibrary loan request and delivery service.

Title Checkouts



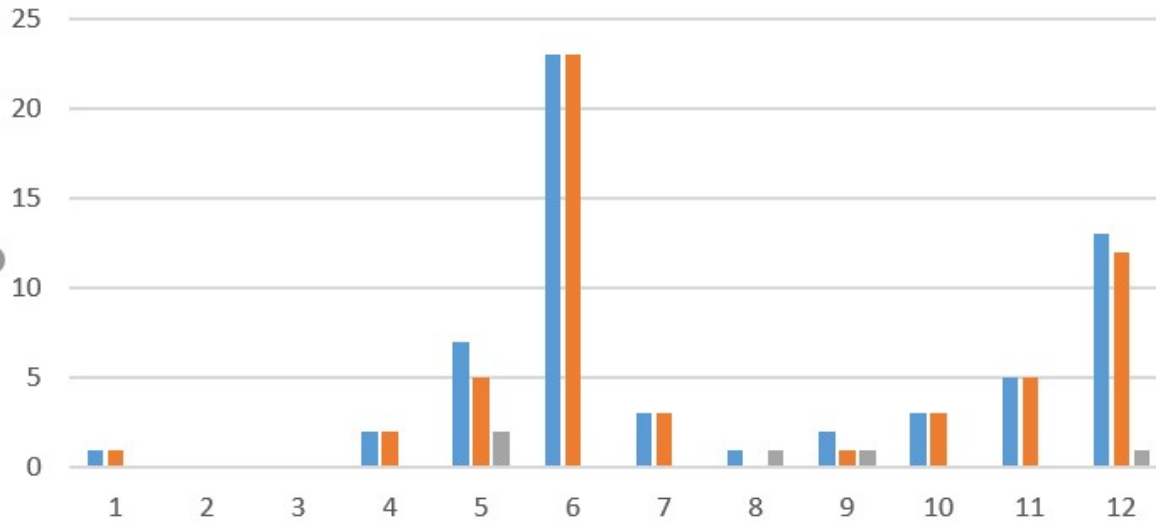
Title Checkouts Cont'd



Interlibrary Loan Service 2019 - 2021

Borrowing July 2019 – June 2020

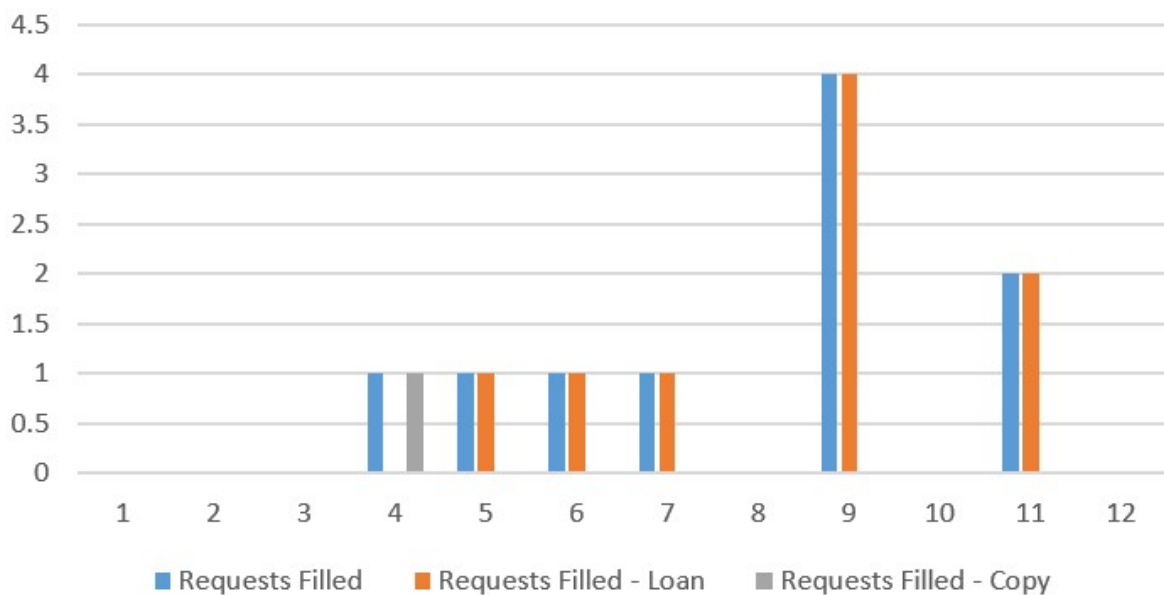
Borrowing Activities July 2019 - June 2020



Borrowing July 2019 – June 2020

Aggregate Borrowing Activities	60
Loan	55
Copies	5

Borrowing Activities July 2021 - June 2020

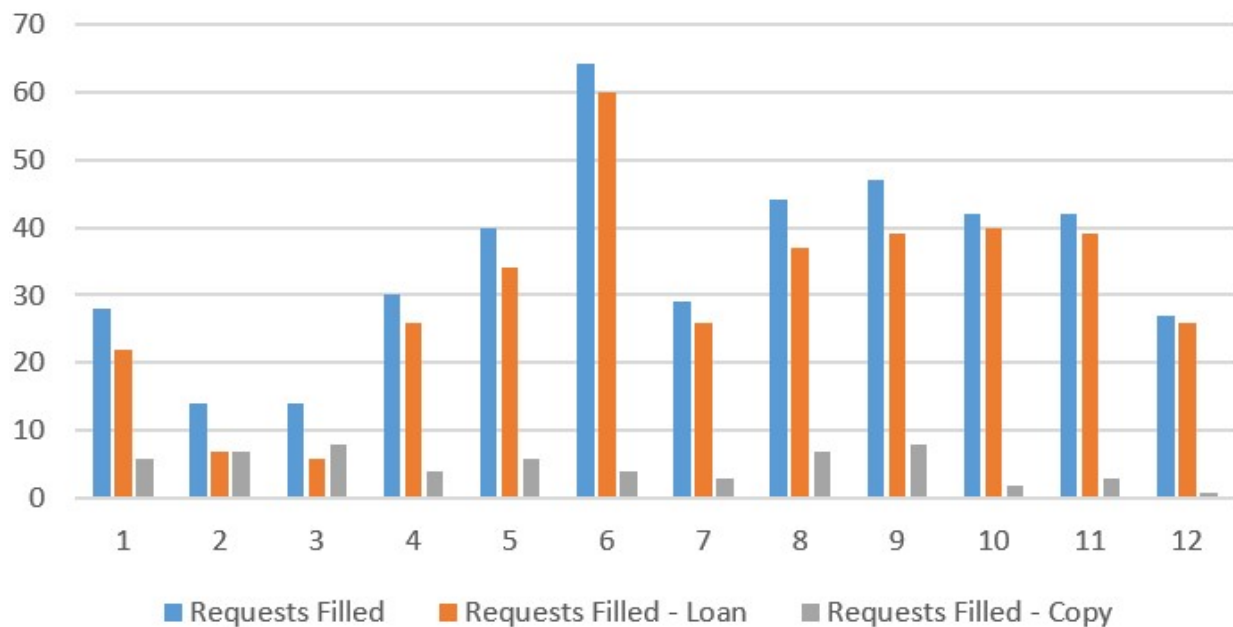


Borrowing July 2020 – June 2021

Aggregate Borrowing Activities	10
Loan	9
Copies	1

Lending Activities July 2019 – June 2020

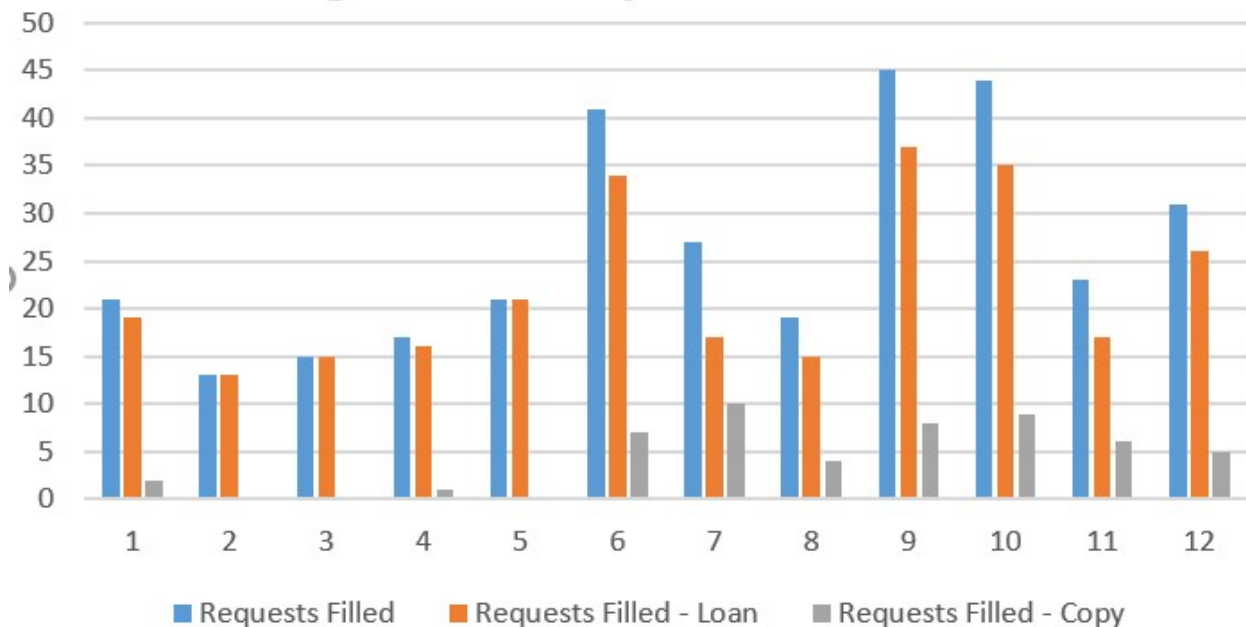
Lending Activities July 2019 – June 2020



Aggregate Lending Activities	421
Loan	362
Copies	59

Lending Activities July 2020 – June 2021

Lending Activities July 2020 – June 2021

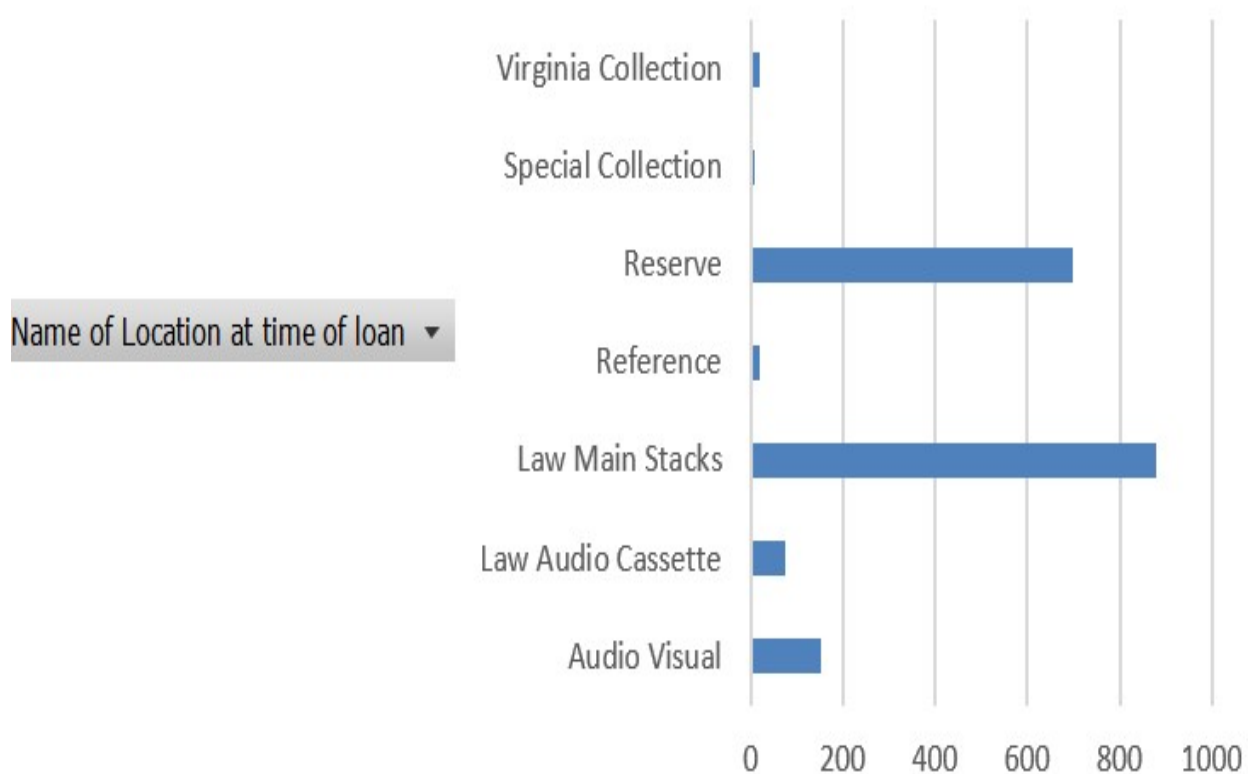


Aggregate Lending Activities	317
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Loan	265
Copies	52

Circulation Statistics
Circulation by Location July 2019 - June 2020

Circulation by Location July 2019 - June 2020

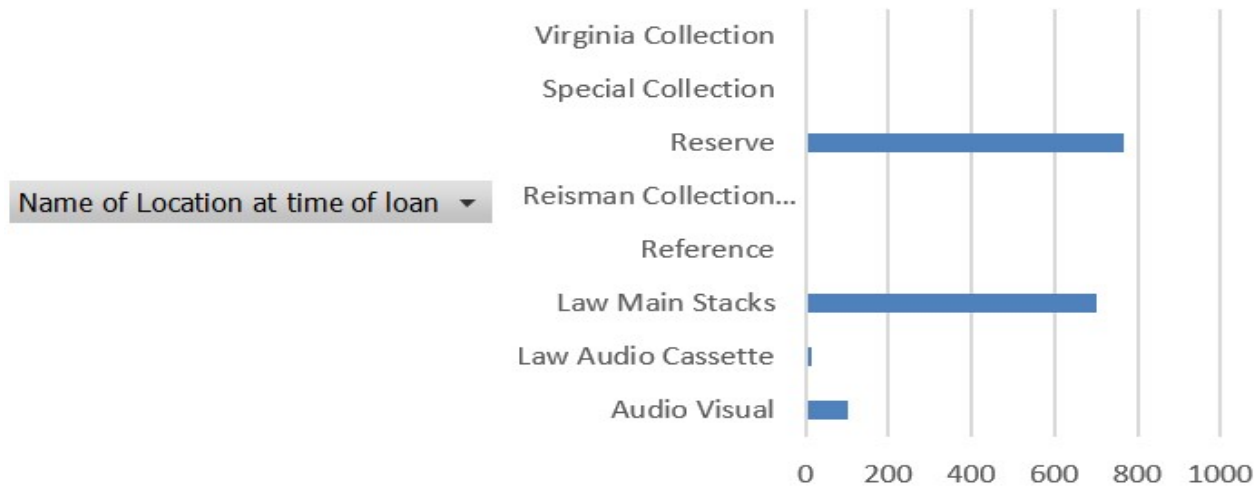


Law Main Stacks	880
Reference	18
Reisman Collection	
Reserve	715
Special Collection	7
Virginia Collection	20
Audiovisual	151
Law Audio Cassettes	74

Nontraditional Materials checked out

Android Charger	
Dry Erase	288
Headphones	
iPhone Charger	7

Circulation by Location July 2020 - June 2021



Circulation by Location July 2020 - June 2021

Law Main Stacks	700
Reference	1
Reisman Collection	1
Reserve	317
Special Collection	4
Virginia Collection	5
Audiovisual	102
Law Audio Cassettes	15

Nontraditional Materials checked out

Android Charger	370
Dry Erase	2368
Headphones	3146
iPhone Charger	840



COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

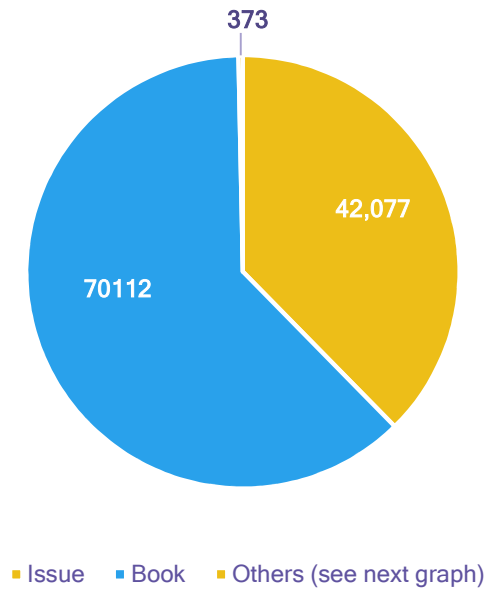
The Law Library continues to serve as a good steward in using the University's funds to grow our collection. In a continued effort to reduce redundancy and better manage the acquisitions budget, the law library adopted a preference for online access to certain materials. Additionally, the library is continuing a 120-month agreement with Thomson Reuters for continuing print subscriptions, of the core collection, which includes Corpus Juris, American Jurisprudence, and American Law Reports.

The Library's subscription to the LexisNexis Digital Library proved to be invaluable during the pandemic year. The subscription's eBook collection popular LexisNexis popular titles as supplemented by other study aids boosted access to resources during the pandemic. Specifically, the LexisNexis digital collection 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 FYs 2019-20, 155 separate e-book titles were checked out from this collection for a total check out of 1,142 times. One particular title was checked out 101 times. The COVID closure increased the usage of this package.

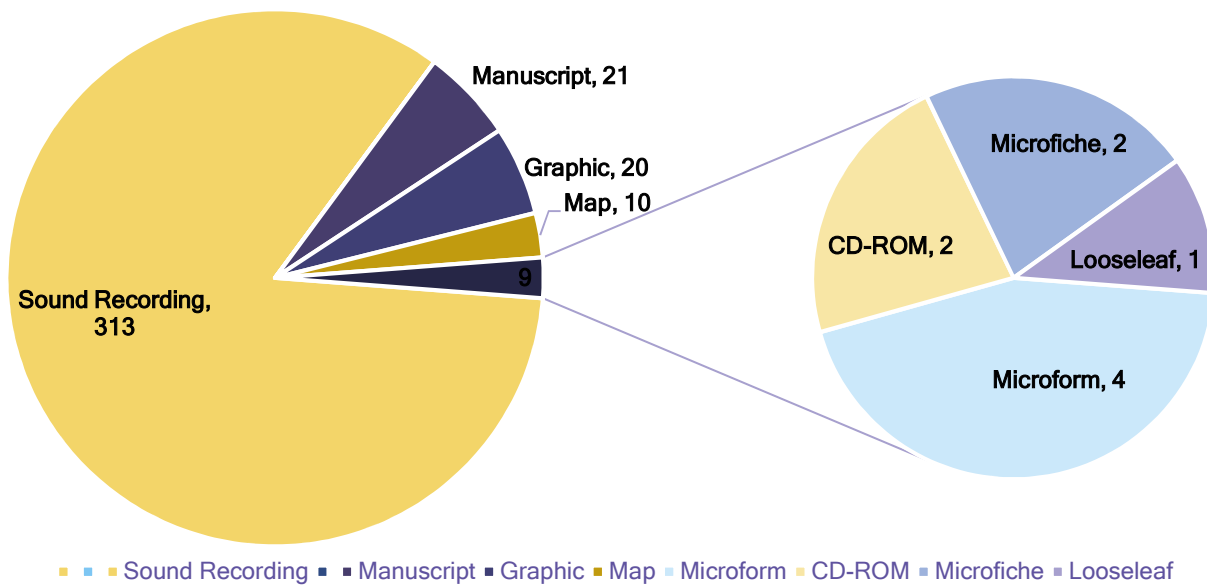
The Law Library continues to maintain electronic access to annotated codes for each of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. The situation is different in print, where we maintain current subscriptions for annotated print statute sets for Virginia and the United States Code only due to increased usage. Primary case law from other states generally is accessible through online resources. A current print subscription to Southeastern Reporter is also maintained, as well as retrospective copies of all regional reporters. The library did not withdraw any volumes in FY18-20.

Additionally, many of our vendors did not have inflationary increases which allowed the library to continue to grow the collection without the need for cancellations.

Items by Material Type

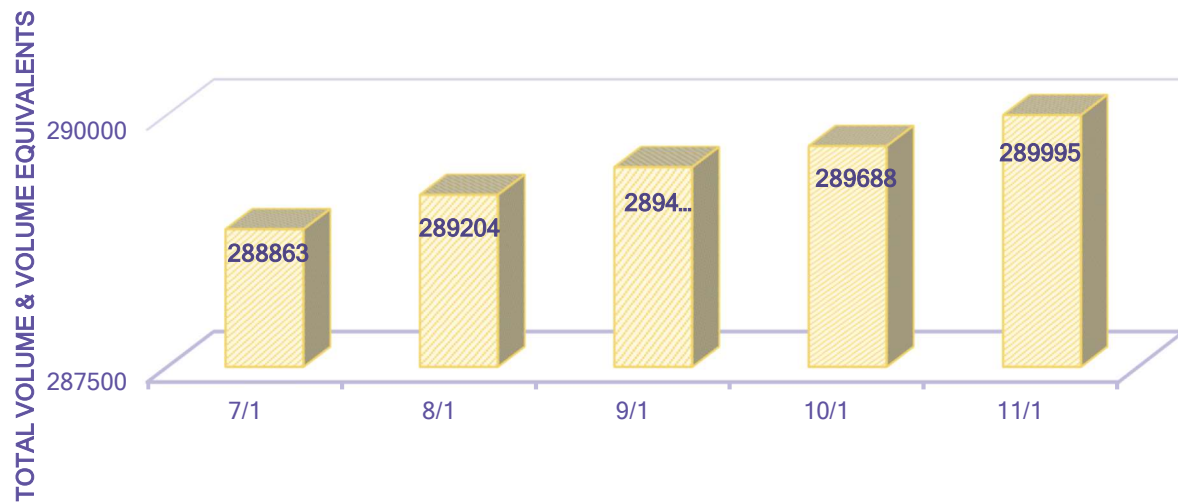


Other Material Types



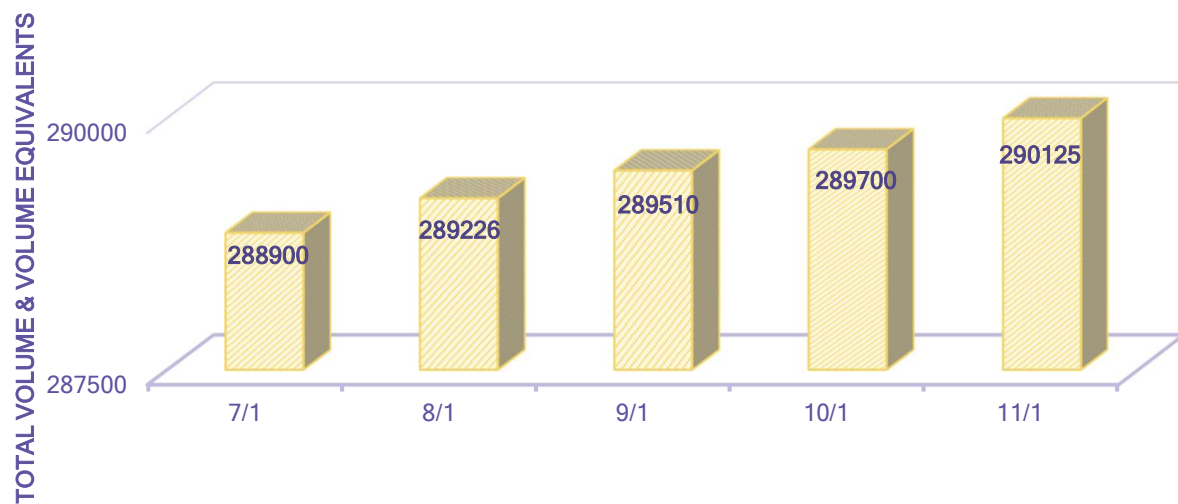
COLLECTION GROWTH

2019



COLLECTION GROWTH

2020



Despite the current global landscape in higher education as particularly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, the Ehrhorn Law Library continued to grow, following the Collection Development Policy. Many of our vendors also supplied complimentary access to databases and study aids to assist the students while they worked remotely. Some of these databases proved to be invaluable resources to the students and we chose to continue a subscription with them, for example, West Academic and Wolters Kluwer Study Aids.