ROBERT J. WHITE
LAW LIBRARY

COLUMBUS SCHOOL OF LAW
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTED JULY 1, 1977 TO THE DEAN AND FACULTY OF LAW BY:

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INTRODUCTION

The following represents the first formal Annual Report issued in several years. For the past few years, the Law Librarian has presented informal reports at regular faculty meetings. It is now felt that a more substantially documented report will be useful. Such reports will be submitted to the Dean and faculty annually from now on.

Since no formal report has been issued for sometime, this document will attempt to bring interested parties up to date as much as possible. It will have more the character of a six-year report than an annual one. Normally, annual reports are submitted sometime after the completion of the fiscal year. In our case, the fiscal year does not end until August 31, 1977. However, since Dean Garvey is assuming the deanship on July 1 of this year, this report was prepared early in an effort to provide him with information about the status of the library as quickly as possible.

In January 1969, Julius Marke, the law librarian at New York University School of Law, submitted a detailed evaluative report on the Catholic University Law Library. This report outlined serious deficiencies in the library's collection, staff, internal procedures, and budget. During the years that have passed since that report, many changes
have been made in the library—in its staff, the arrange-
ment of its facilities, the book collection, and in the
services provided to its users. Virtually all major
recommendations of the "Marke Report" have been imple-
mented, although the book budget levels recommended have
not been achieved. This report will attempt to discuss
these changes and their effect on the primary users of
the library, the faculty and students of the law school.
Recommendations for further improvement will be given
where appropriate.

Finally, Professor Valeri and his staff wish to
thank the faculty for their suggestions and assistance
in improving the library. The faculty-student committee
on the library has also been helpful in providing infor-
mation and guidance to the law librarian and his staff.
The suggestions and support of the members of the Student
Bar Association and the Law Review are also acknowledged
and gratefully accepted.
BOOK COLLECTION

Since 1969, the collection has grown from 51,282 volumes to 85,132 volumes. This increase has been accomplished while at the same time enhancing the quality of the collection. As will be considered in more detail below, this growth has been achieved despite a deplorably low book budget.

IMPROVEMENTS

A few of the major improvements in the collection in the past six years should be noted. Several thousand duplicate and superseded volumes have been eliminated. The core collection of basic reference materials has been greatly strengthened. Incomplete looseleaf sets have been updated, and many new sets have been added.

The collection of state digests has increased from six to 25. The legal periodical collection has more than doubled in number of titles held. The library has acquired the Federal Register, the Briefs of Cases Argued Before the Supreme Court (1974-1977 terms), and selected legislative histories, all in microforms, as well as a microfilm reader and a microfiche reader.

The international law materials collection has benefited from the bequest of the personal library of Green H. Hackworth, and the establishment of the John Mitchell Endowment Fund for international legal materials.
VOLUME COUNT STATISTICS

Catholic University has roughly kept pace with other law school libraries in the number of volumes added during the period from 1969 to 1976. This is primarily the result of an active gift and exchange program rather than budgetary support.

In Fiscal Year 1969-70, Catholic University ranked 104th in volume count out of 137 accredited law schools nationwide (23rd percentile). In FY 1975-76, Catholic ranked 118th out of 159 schools (25th percentile). The raw volume count shows that during this six-year period while Catholic added 33,850 volumes (from 51,282 to 85,132), the average increase in volumes for all law schools was 51,498 (from 104,340 to 155,838). Thus, though maintaining approximately the same ranking, Catholic has dropped further behind the average in actual volume count (70,706 behind in 1976) than it was in 1969 (53,058 behind in 1969).

In FY 1969-70, Catholic University ranked 14th out of 21 Catholic law schools (33rd percentile). In FY 1975-76, Catholic University ranked 18th out of 23 Catholic law schools (21st percentile). The average Catholic law school during this period added 10,000 more volumes than Catholic University added.

Compared with the other four major Washington, D.C. law schools, during the 1969-1976 period, Catholic added about the same number of volumes as those schools.
The average increase for those four schools was slightly less than Catholic's increase, but Catholic University is still more than 50,000 volumes lower than the average collection size for those schools in 1976. In volume rank, Catholic ranks fifth out of five, as it did in 1969.

In FY 1969-70, the American Bar Association classified 52 law school libraries, including Catholic University, as "medium size" (50,000-100,000 volumes). The average collection size for the 51 other schools in 1969 was 70,704 volumes. By 1976, that average had increased 47,788 to 118,492 volumes. Catholic's increase during the same period was 33,850.

The volume count statistics are summarized in Table 1.

BOOK BUDGET STATISTICS

The growth in collection size, and the relative stability of Catholic's rank among all accredited law schools, is remarkable in light of the available book budget over that six-year period.

In size of book budget, Catholic University in FY 1969-70 (with $48,200) ranked 65th out of 137 schools (48th percentile). By FY 1975-76, Catholic (with $63,000) had plunged to a rank of 155th out of 159 schools (3rd percentile). Only four law schools in the entire country have a lower book budget than Catholic University.
During this six-year period, Catholic's book budget rose 31 per cent. During the same period:

a. the average book budget of other Catholic law schools rose 166 per cent (from $43,287 to $115,000);

b. the average book budget of the four other Washington, D.C. law schools rose 117 per cent (from $58,320 to $126,596);

c. the average book budget of the 51 law schools, which in 1969 were classified with Catholic as "medium size" schools, rose 90 per cent (from $59,680 to $113,000).

Catholic University now ranks 22nd out of 23 Catholic law schools, and fifth out of five Washington, D.C. schools.

One other comment about the book budget is appropriate. The evaluation of the library in 1969 referred to in the Introduction, the Marke Report, is the reference point for determining the library's growth in many areas. With the exception of the recommended changes in the book budget, all of the major recommendations in that report have been implemented since 1969. The credit for these changes should go in large part to the energy of the Law Librarian.

The one area where the Marke Report's recommendations have not been adopted, however, is the allocation of significant additional funds to the book budget.
The report recommended a one-time grant of $150,000 for FY 1969-70 to rapidly improve the book collection. That recommendation has never been acted on. The report also recommended that the book budget be increased to $75,000 in FY 1969-70, and up from that thereafter. A $75,000 book budget will barely be achieved in FY 1977-78.

If these recommendations on the book budget had been acted on in 1969, assuming a 10 per cent annual increase in the book budget, the library's book budget last year would have been $132,900. The library would have had $498,272 more in its total book budget over the past seven years than it has actually had.

CONCLUSIONS

At first glance, there appears to be an inconsistency between volume growth and the book budget. This discrepancy can be explained by an active gift and exchange program. Catholic University has been able to add significant numbers of volumes at little or no cost. In fact, of the roughly 5,000 volumes added each of the past few years, more than half have come from gift and exchange rather than purchase.

The size and efficiency of the gift and exchange program is indicative of the great energy and resourcefulness of the Law Librarian and his staff.

This type of collection development, however, has serious limitations.
Catholic University's holdings in the kinds of materials most readily available through gift and exchange - state reports, state session laws, and government agency reports - are quickly becoming complete.

Thus, while these materials are still available to the library, their usefulness and importance to the overall collection is rapidly diminishing. Catholic University simply cannot rely on this source of acquisitions to provide the amount and quality of volumes which should be added to the library annually. In short, Catholic University is going to have to buy more of its books in the future.

As the budget figures show, nowhere near sufficient funds are being allocated for this purpose.

The book budget figures are summarized in Table 2.
LIBRARY STAFF

In 1969, the law library was deplorably under-staffed. There was only one professional librarian and three full-time non-professional assistants. Today the law library staff has three professional librarians and six full-time non-professional assistants. The law library today offers services that were simply impossible under the staffing situation that existed in 1969.

The most important change that this increase in staff has produced is the cataloging and classification of the book collection. The entire collection is now cataloged and classified according to the Library of Congress system. An impressive public card catalog has been generated virtually from scratch, and has been an immense aid in providing patrons access to the contents of the collection. This project was accomplished without any disruption of normal library services and at an overall cost significantly lower than similar projects at other law schools.

Also vitally important to library service was the appointment of the first full-time professional reference librarian. Before this appointment, reference service was a haphazard affair devolving mostly on student desk attendants whose expertise in the area of reference work was understandably incomplete. As valuable as the appointment of a reference librarian has been, it must be noted that this person's services are limited to the day-time hours.
This means that the part-time students, who use the library almost exclusively at night and on weekends, have no professional reference service available to them. The American Association of Law Schools standards require the availability of professional reference services whenever there is substantial use of the library. While great pains have been taken to train the student assistants who are on duty during these hours, the lack of professional reference service is painfully evident.

Library use statistics generated during the past year serve to highlight the insufficiency of service that can be offered with only one reference librarian. First, nearly as many students use the law library on weekend afternoons - when there is no reference service - as do on weekday afternoons, when such service is available.

A statistically significant number of students use the law library during the evening hours Sunday through Thursday, another period when no reference service is available. It is fair to say that our evening students, who for the most part can only use the law library in the evenings and on weekends, are being shortchanged.

We recommend at this time that a second professional reference librarian position be created to provide such services during the evening and weekend hours.
We recommend that professional reference service be made available in the law library at the following times:

Monday through Thursday: 9 A.M. - 10 P.M.
Friday: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Saturday: 12 Noon - 5 P.M.
Sunday: 1 P.M. - 8 P.M.

During the past several years, the law library has benefited from the services of a large number of highly skilled and dedicated staff members. A belated testimonial to their contributions is hereby offered.

Of the many who have served, special tribute must be given to the following:

Michael Gehringer, Law Library, Library of Congress
Laurie Reith, Syracuse University Library
Margaret Salter Margeton, American Bar Association
Anne Head, Federal Election Commission
Jane James, Fulbright and Jaworski
Michael Petit, International School of Law
Barbara Sendker Chase, Akron Law School Library
Nancy Loe, Pikes Peak Regional Library

While the library has benefited greatly from the contribution of these people and many others, it must be pointed out that there exists an unfortunate rate of personnel turn-over.
Six positions have experienced turn-overs during the last four years. These six positions have turned-over more than 30 times during that period. This means that the average tenure in these positions is less than one year.

A certain amount of turn-over is to be expected and welcomed. Much is to be gained from new people with new ideas and fresh insights. However, a turn-over rate such as the library has in these positions causes serious problems. With the average tenure of less than one year, a disproportionate amount of time must be spent training new personnel. It is very difficult for the library to establish a sense of continuity in its service to library patrons. It seems that as soon as a person has achieved a firm grasp of the requirements of their position and has built up a solid working relationship with their co-workers and library patrons, they move on to other employment.

The reason for such a high turn-over rate is not difficult to isolate. The average salary of a full-time law library employee at Catholic University is fully 25 per cent lower than the average at the other Washington, D.C. university law schools.
READER SERVICES

The most obvious change in this area of library operations has been the relocation of the Circulation Desk, which was moved in May. The move was accomplished at a low cost and has many advantages over the previous arrangement of the library.

The library has combined into one location the circulation, reserve, and reference functions. The reference librarian is now behind the Circulation Desk, with increased accessibility to library patrons.

The new area for reserve materials (formerly the copier room) now also accommodates the current issues of periodicals, and has room for expansion. All microform materials and equipment are now centralized behind the Circulation Desk.

The copier is now located to the right of the main entrance to the library, behind the card catalog. One by-product of the rearrangement of facilities has been to improve the appearance of the library at the entrance, and ease the flow of traffic through the door.

IMPROVEMENTS

Several projects designed to increase access to library materials have either been completed or updated in the last year. One is a Wheeldex file, at the Circulation Desk, listing all state court reports in the collection.
This Wheeldex also lists all federal government agency reports in the collection. A similar Wheeldex at the Circulation Desk lists the library's nearly 500 periodical titles, showing both bound volumes and current issues. Another project was the compilation of a two-volume checklist of all state session laws in the collection. The staff is currently expanding and indexing the library's newsletter collection for eventual inclusion in the periodical section.

In May the library began a simple new system to monitor periodical use. Patrons seeking any unbound periodical are required to fill out a short periodical request form at the Circulation Desk. The forms are collected and when tabulated indicate frequency of use and availability of specific periodicals.

This year the library also participated in producing the Third Edition (1977) of the Union List of Legal Periodicals. This volume, in a computer print-out format capable of easy up-dating, lists the holdings of 115 area law libraries in nearly 1,500 different legal periodicals.

LIBRARY USE STATISTICS

In the past, the library staff has had to estimate the number of people who used the library, and which periods of operation saw the heaviest use.
During the fall semester (August to December 1976), the circulation managers kept statistics on how many people used the library. These statistics appear in Table 3, and are referred to in the library staff recommendations.

The use study indicates that on the average there are 47 people in the library for each hour it is open (104 hours per week). The peak period for weekday use stretches from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the crunch from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturdays, the peak usage is from 12 noon to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. The busiest day is Wednesday, followed by Monday and Tuesday. The slowest day is Friday. Even the slowest times seem to have enough use to justify staying open. Monday through Friday from 11 p.m. to 12 midnight, there are on average 12 people in the library. Weekday mornings from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. the average is 24 library users.

One other project of the library staff during the past year was the publication of the Law Library Guide, a copy of which is appended to this report. A more comprehensive guide, with a slightly different format, will be printed in August 1977.
### TABLE 1: VOLUMES IN COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>OTHER CATHOLIC LAW SCHOOLS (AVG. VOLS.)</th>
<th>WASHINGTON AREA LAW SCHOOLS (AVG. VOLS.)</th>
<th>CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY RANK AMONG ALL ACCREDITED LAW SCHOOLS.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969 - 70.</td>
<td>51,282</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>104th of 137 (23rd percentile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975 - 76.</td>
<td>85,132</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>118th of 159 (25th percentile)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Catholic University ranked 14th out of 21 schools (33rd percentile).
2. Catholic University ranked 18th out of 23 schools (21st percentile).
3. Catholic University ranked fifth out of five schools.
4. Catholic University ranked fifth out of five schools.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>OTHER CATHOLIC LAW SCHOOLS (AVG. BUDGET)</th>
<th>WASHINGTON AREA LAW SCHOOLS (AVG. BUDGET)</th>
<th>51 LAW SCHOOLS OF &quot;MEDIUM&quot; SIZE(^1) (AVG. BUDGET)</th>
<th>C.U.'s RANK AMONG ALL LAW SCHOOLS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969 - 70.</td>
<td>$48,200</td>
<td>$43,287</td>
<td>$58,320</td>
<td>$59,680</td>
<td>65 of 137 (48%tile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975 - 76.</td>
<td>$63,000 (31% ABOVE FY 1969-70)</td>
<td>$115,000 (166% ABOVE FY 1969-70)</td>
<td>$126,596 (117% ABOVE FY 1969-70)</td>
<td>$113,000 (90% ABOVE FY 1969-70)</td>
<td>155 of 159 (3%tile)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The American Bar Association classifies libraries of 50,000 - 100,000 volumes as "medium" size libraries.
2. Catholic University ranked 9th out of 21 schools (57th percentile).
3. Catholic University ranked 22nd out of 23 schools (4th percentile). Catholic University has the lowest book budget of any Catholic law school in the Continental United States. Only Catholic University of Puerto Rico is lower.
4. Catholic University ranked fourth out of five schools.
5. Catholic University ranked fifth out of five schools.
6. The only law schools which ranked lower than Catholic University in book budget were Valparaiso, Montana, Baylor, and Catholic University of Puerto Rico.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>MON.</th>
<th>TUES.</th>
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</table>

**DAILY AVERAGES** → 53 52 66 47 36 38 40

*The Figures are the average number of Library users for the period or hour indicated.*