The Kresge Law Library
A Tradition of Challenges & Progress

he sky was ti
drastically blue and the cr
carried all
the aromas of
a divisional
October
evening in
1931 in Aller
and I stood outside the Morris Inn waiting
for David and Barbara Fisk to pick us up
for dinner. Earlier that day, my wife and I
had been introduced to the many wonders
of the Notre Dame campus, the warm and
welcoming Law School faculty, and the
village joy of the South Bend community.

I had come to campus to interview for
the directorship of the Kresge Law Library;
and to lecture if Notre Dame and South
Bend were right for my family and me.

I had concerns that the Library and its re-
sources were larger compared with those
to which I had grown accustomed in the
United States Supreme Court, and further,
that the inadequacy of those resources
posed a significant challenge to Doe's plan
to elevate Notre Dame's name from a local,
regional Catholic law school to a national,
leadership institution. I knew that directing
the expansion and enhancement of the
library's collection would be no easy task.

Nevertheless, the immeasurable virtues
of Notre Dame were leading me toward
going Doe the final commitment for
sight. And thus, at that very moment, the
Notre Dame Band marched across the
main circle toward the Morris Inn and
sank up the Fighting Song. Was it a presci-
dence? Did Doe Fisk arrange this? Was it
a sign? And what? Right then, my mind
was made up. We would come to Notre
Dame.

Since that memorable October day just
over 15 years ago, the Kresge Law Library
has taken giant steps in the development
of legal information services — services es-
cessful in satisfying the needs of a growing,
diverse faculty and student body that is
among the brightest in the nation. Thanks
to the support of an understanding and
progressive-minded donor, a University ad-
munity that was quick to recognize the
need for increased resources — both finan-
cial and human — to develop and operate
a research-level library, and generous benefi-
cutors who have provided the financial
support vital to achieving our goals, the
Kresge Law Library has joined the ranks of
those few law libraries nationwide.

As someone who spends a fair
minute in Notre Dame's offices, "traditions"

by ASSOCIATE DEAN ROGER F. JACOBY
DIRECTOR OF THE KRESGE LAW LIBRARY
permit every aspect of the campus. We often took to the post on traffic surveys here. We relied on the success of our past, and to take comfort in knowing that we are part of something much larger than ourselves—something that will continue long after we are gone. When I became director of the Kresge Law Library in 1963, I too learned very quickly that I was part of a longstanding ACS tradition.

Initially, I was concerned with providing accommodations for persons, staff, and a collection that had to double in size to become anywhere near comparable to the needs of the institution. Furthermore, I was concerned with how to equip to intermediate research requirements with the existing slender facilities. Interestingly, I learned that these problems had placed the various incarnations of the law library for most of these challenges formed much of the "tradition" of the law library. The earlier evolution of a law library appears in University records around 1889. The Law School had existed since 1889, and if there had been a library at that point, any collection whatsoever would have been in the 1879 law building. That building was located within the campus buildings. When the Law School moved to its cramped, basement quarters in the Law College Building in the north end of Old Hall in 1895, the Columbia Law Review for March of that year referred to the new facility as a "modest little quarters." and emphasized, "The most modest house and its bare rooms are spacious, well lighted, well ventilated and exceptionally comfortable rooms with a sterile elegance of the law school." By 1897, the Columbia Law Review boasted about twenty-five hundred volumes comprising "the studied text books and reprints," in order to serve a population of around 50 students and up to four faculty members. In one year of that early era, during the deanship of Colonel William Hoyt, the Law Bulletin of 1901-02 noted the small size of the library as an advantage:

"There are that facility in the study room and the clear, bustling atmosphere in the law library at Old Dewey, but it may well be objeced to while the addition to the existing city of books is in

Colonel William J. Hoyt, first dean of the New York Law School, teaches there in 1893 with much of the library collection appearing in the background.

better adapted for the use of students. The latest edition of the New York Law Journal in its library, and an opportunity to read it at any time, is not needed for reference, the writing, and most research. A good library work splendidly large collection of books—too easy to be generally known by or have personal attention from the Faculty—may be less accessible for not so accessible than a comparatively small one.

Obviously, Colonel Hoyt knew how to judge a law library.

At the end of the Hoyt era, descriptions of the library were sometimes less glorious. A 1919 Chatham University Bulletin mentioned that the collection, which had climaxed in size in 1906-07 to 3,000 volumes, was "adequate for the present needs." And in 1918, after a year in University president Rev. John W. Casazza, C.S.C., Professor Edward J. Vinal, who would succeed Hoyt that year as dean, complained that the library had inadequate working space for the student body, between 1891 and 1918, had increased

visibly to around 200. These conditions did improve dramatically—"only temporarily—when the Law School moved into the old Hoyt College of Law, which is now Crosby Hall of Music on the main quad. The new facility provided space for 25,000 volumes, and the University Bulletin of 1915-16 described it as "efficiently equipped...perfectly lighted...and it has the conference and classrooms...as remodeled and for us as we find them...the most convenient, comfortable and cheerful accommodations for the law school." By 1930 the Law School moved into its present quarters—a considerable improvement over the Hoyt College of Law

building. The University Bulletin of 1930-31 described its "library reading room 20 by 100 feet in which a working library of 10,000 volumes...and additional stock room for 23,000 volumes." This announcement was repeated in the Bulletin the year after the publication date. Two other variations being the estimated number of volumes in the library. By the end of the Dean Thomas H. Kegels era in 1941, the collection had reached this expected
to 16,000 volumes.

Critically, the new building improved upon conditions in the former Law Library building. Nevertheless, the new building has provided an improvement in the field of educational challenges. Nearly 30 years ago, in his history, A. C. C. of the Law at Northeastern, Notre Dame Press, 1967, Rev. Philip S. Moore, G. K. C. commented extensively on the library facilities of the old Law Library.

"[The new Law] was never less to be doubted..."

The adequacy of the present Law building for the needs of today is still in question; but it is hard to see an adequate Library given. The Library, housed in a small, high-ceilinged room which might be easily converted into a studio apartment, does not suggest the magnitude of the task of preparing for study in the Law School. The present Law Library is not large enough to provide the necessary space for the study of the subject itself and as a storehouse for books. There is much room for improvement in this respect; there are likely occasions on which the students are required to study in a library which is overcrowded or in which the space is not sufficient to accommodate the study of the subject. The need for growth of this building was continually discussed.

In fact, between 1931 and 1934, only 6,000 volumes were added to the Library, and the contrast to today — in 1925 alone we added nearly 7,000 books! But by 1958, a result of a special $50,000 appropriation in 1953 to purchase books over a four-year period, the collection had grown to 57,800 volumes. In 1961, the Law School established 100,000 volumes, and by 1966, the library collection numbered 99,000 volumes. In his assessment of the state of the School, Robert M. L. commented, "...The library falls below the book requirements of the American Bar Association and of the Association of American Law Schools. The latter institution has recently upgraded its requirements for law school libraries, but Notre Dame does not meet even the previous requirements..." He went on to mention efforts to raise one million dollars to increase library holdings, but where would any new books go?

This question was answered in the early 1960s, with the expansion of the Law School building. Underwritten by a $1,000,000 grant from the Krueger Foundation, the 1963 expansion created a new library building. This expansion included additional space for collections, study facilities, and an increased library staff. The library was improved in several ways, including the addition of more study rooms and increased space for the staff. The expanded library was primarily used by the law students. The holdings expanded as well, with 99,000 volumes — many of which were still in storage in the then-Memorial Library, to 150,000 volumes, thanks in large part to a grant from the John F. Murphy Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio.

This addition served the Law School community well for a while, but by the late 1960s, the facility and the student body grew, and their needs grew accordingly.

Addison, in 1965, it became very clear that the time was at hand for a new and larger library building. The new building would likely be a $30,000,000 project, and the library space again proved inadequate for their needs. Modifications to the building in 1961 addressed the problem temporarily. By 1969, the Law School's centennial year, the library collection numbered 99,000 volumes. In his assessment of the state of the School, Robert M. L. commented, "...The library falls below the book requirements of the American Bar Association and of the Association of American Law Schools. The latter institution has recently upgraded its requirements for law school libraries, but Notre Dame does not meet even the previous requirements..." He went on to mention efforts to raise one million dollars to increase library holdings, but where would any new books go?

This question was answered in the early 1960s, with the expansion of the Law School building. Underwritten by a $1,000,000 grant from the Krueger Foundation, the 1963 expansion created a new library building. This expansion included additional space for collections, study facilities, and an increased library staff. The library was improved in several ways, including the addition of more study rooms and increased space for the staff. The expanded library was primarily used by the law students. The holdings expanded as well, with 99,000 volumes — many of which were still in storage in the then-Memorial Library, to 150,000 volumes, thanks in large part to a grant from the John F. Murphy Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio.

This addition served the Law School community well for a while, but by the late 1960s, the facility and the student body grew, and their needs grew accordingly.

Addison, in 1965, it became very clear that the time was at hand for a new and larger library building. The new building would likely be a $30,000,000 project, and the library space again proved inadequate for their needs.
And today, we face other challenges that Colonel Hoyt and Dean O'Meara — and even we ourselves just a decade ago — could not have anticipated.

The advent of preservation microfilming processes in response to the chemical deterioration of books and major research libraries has helped tremendously increase our holdings as well. Subscription libraries, including ours, must anticipate projects to microfilm historical monographs in the conservation effort. In addition, major projects undertaken to microfilm government documents facsimile the acquisition of substantial back files of these significant materials. Added by funding from the John P. Murphy Foundation of Columbus, Ohio, we have been able to add 240,000 plus volumes in microfilm.

And lastly, we face other challenges that Colonel Hoyt and Dean O'Meara — and even we ourselves just a decade ago — could not have anticipated. While it is a luxury to improve the pace of our collections by adding books and other information sources, we must also provide an inventory that serves the law school faculty and the students effectively. This is the Library's current effort. These efforts have been enhanced by the generous benefactions of some, and the Krueger Law Library now has a solidly endowed collections. In addition, with the purchase of the Chicago Bar Association library in 1969, and underwritten by University Board of Trustees member John P. Sandvik and J. L. D. of Chicago, we added 12,000 unique titles and nearly 33,000 additional books to the collection all at once. The resources from these gifts continue to foster the research capabilities of the collection as a collection that, since 1930, has tripled in the number of print volumes on the shelves.
recently added to the library are five rare, photographing machines, microform readers, and readers-printers. The four Apple IIc personal computers, available for student use in 1986, have given way through several donations to today’s complement of 30 personal PCs, including 10 in a state-of-the-art instructional lab, which we dedicate this month. Additionally, we have added 130 computer cards, connected to the University’s ReaCnet system, allowing students access to campus and worldwide networks for their study needs.

And we must prepare our students for the legal practice of the future, with the ability to code, execute, or otherwise code computer programs. In 1985, the Library sponsored an Internet seminar to inform faculty about the uses of the Internet.

With the advent of an automated serial system developed by Innovative Interfaces, Inc., virtually all the library’s operations are automated, including ordering, check-in, payment, cataloging/classification, and circulation.

Technology has infused not just the library’s physical makeup, but also the student body itself. Among the hardware and software items recently added to the library are five rare, photographing machines, microform readers, and readers-printers. The four Apple IIc personal computers, available for student use in 1986, have given way through several donations to today’s complement of 30 personal PCs, including 10 in a state-of-the-art instructional lab, which we dedicate this month. Additionally, we have added 130 computer cards, connected to the University’s ReaCnet system, allowing students access to campus and worldwide networks for their study needs.

And we must prepare our students for the legal practice of the future, with the ability to code, execute, or otherwise code computer programs. In 1985, we sponsored an Internet seminar to inform faculty about the uses of the Internet.

With the advent of an automated serial system developed by Innovative Interfaces, Inc., virtually all the library’s operations are automated, including ordering, check-in, payment, cataloging/classification, and circulation.

Technology has infused not just the library’s physical makeup, but also the student body itself. Among the hardware and software items recently added to the library are five rare, photographing machines, microform readers, and readers-printers. The four Apple IIc personal computers, available for student use in 1986, have given way through several donations to today’s complement of 30 personal PCs, including 10 in a state-of-the-art instructional lab, which we dedicate this month. Additionally, we have added 130 computer cards, connected to the University’s ReaCnet system, allowing students access to campus and worldwide networks for their study needs.

And we must prepare our students for the legal practice of the future, with the ability to code, execute, or otherwise code computer programs. In 1985, we sponsored an Internet seminar to inform faculty about the uses of the Internet.

With the advent of an automated serial system developed by Innovative Interfaces, Inc., virtually all the library’s operations are automated, including ordering, check-in, payment, cataloging/classification, and circulation.

Technology has infused not just the library’s physical makeup, but also the student body itself. Among the hardware and software items recently added to the library are five rare, photographing machines, microform readers, and readers-printers. The four Apple IIc personal computers, available for student use in 1986, have given way through several donations to today’s complement of 30 personal PCs, including 10 in a state-of-the-art instructional lab, which we dedicate this month. Additionally, we have added 130 computer cards, connected to the University’s ReaCnet system, allowing students access to campus and worldwide networks for their study needs.

And we must prepare our students for the legal practice of the future, with the ability to code, execute, or otherwise code computer programs. In 1985, we sponsored an Internet seminar to inform faculty about the uses of the Internet.

With the advent of an automated serial system developed by Innovative Interfaces, Inc., virtually all the library’s operations are automated, including ordering, check-in, payment, cataloging/classification, and circulation.
In 1996-97, the King's Law Library

(Periodical)
collection grew to over 40,000 volumes, ranking it 4th among the nation's law libraries in collection size. The growth came in the form of an additional 33,199 monographs, 17,218
bulletin books, and visits by 4,656 first
dataweek for growth in collection size
during an academic year.

In 1997-98, the King's Law Library

(Periodical)
subscribed to an all-inclusive of 3,276 serial publications — 560 in the nation.

In 1998-99, the Research Department

(Periodical)
assisted in over 400 research questions.

In 1999-00, the King's Law Library

(Periodical)
served over 37,800 patrons, retrieved over 11,000 times and
photocopies over 23,000 pages for faculty
research.

The 2000 staff of the King's Law

(Periodical)
Librarymalı 1,000 books in the academic
season with 900 new volumes.

DID KNOW?

In 1996-97, the King's Law Library

(Periodical)
collection grew to over 40,000 volumes, ranking it 4th among the nation's law libraries in collection size. The growth came in the form of an additional 33,199 monographs, 17,218 bulletin books, and visits by 4,656 first dataweek for growth in collection size during an academic year.

In 1997-98, the King's Law Library subscribed to an all-inclusive of 3,276 serial publications — 560 in the nation.

In 1998-99, the Research Department assisted in over 400 research questions.

In 1999-00, the King's Law Library served over 37,800 patrons, retrieved over 11,000 times and photocopies over 23,000 pages for faculty research.

The 2000 staff of the King's Law Librarymalı 1,000 books in the academic season with 900 new volumes.