Technology
A new technology has rippled through the legal profession and into education. This new technology is the Internet, which has been revolutionizing the way people communicate, access information, and conduct business. Libraries, formerly considered the only place to find information, are now just one of many sources of knowledge. With the rise of the Internet, libraries have embraced digital technology to meet the needs of their patrons. The advent of online databases, digital libraries, and electronic resources has transformed the traditional library into a modern, user-friendly environment.

The Library of Congress has been at the forefront of this digital revolution. They have developed a new platform, known as the Legal Information Institute (LII), which provides access to legal information from around the world. LII is a comprehensive resource that covers a wide range of legal topics, from constitutional law to international law. The platform is designed to be user-friendly, with intuitive search functions and easy-to-read content.

The Legal Information Institute (LII) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that provides free access to legal information. LII is funded by a combination of government grants and donations from private organizations. The organization's mission is to provide free, high-quality legal information to the public. LII's database includes over 500,000 legal resources, including statutes, regulations, cases, and other types of legal materials. The organization's goal is to make legal information more accessible and understandable to the general public.

LII's platform has been widely praised for its user-friendly interface and comprehensive content. The platform allows users to search for legal information by keyword, citation, or case name. Users can also browse the site by subject matter, such as constitutional law, international law, or labor law.

Despite its success, LII faces many challenges. One of the biggest challenges is the need to keep the platform up-to-date with the latest legal developments. The organization relies on a team of legal research specialists to ensure that the information on the site is accurate and current. This requires a significant amount of resources, including time and money.

Another challenge facing LII is the need to ensure that the information on the site is accessible to all users. This includes providing information in multiple languages and ensuring that the platform is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

In conclusion, the Legal Information Institute (LII) is a valuable resource for anyone interested in legal information. With its comprehensive database and user-friendly interface, LII provides a valuable service to the public. As technology continues to evolve, LII is well-positioned to meet the needs of its users and continue to provide free, high-quality legal information for years to come.
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inclusively. Government agencies and other off-line services are providing access to relevant cases, statutes, and other primary- and secondary-authority materials on the web. Commercial publishers are offering products that exist only on the web. As a result, practicing lawyers, law students and professors alike are beginning to use the Internet more and more in their everyday work.

Beyond legal research, at NDSU the Internet has begun to filter into the classroom. Through the use of various aspects of the Internet and networking technology, a professor can provide students with access to all of the class materials, including syllabus handouts, reserves readings, relevant cases and statutes, etc. Students and professors can communicate via email, asking and answering questions electronically — long after class is over and everyone has gone home for the night.

A professor is fortunate to take advantage of new, hybrid technology that combines the best of LEXIS and Westlaw with the best of the Internet, creating an "extended classroom" — a classroom that extends beyond the geographical boundaries of the classroom and the financial boundaries of the class schedule. For example, a West service called TWEN allows professors to create a "twen" — essentially an email address database of the students in a particular class through which professor and students can communicate with each other and through which uniform access to information in Westlaw's database using web-based hypertext. Professors who are assigned to particular topics are invited to join the discussion — as long as they have a valid Westlaw user ID number and the approval of the course instructor. Westlaw offers a similar service called EXCHANGE.

An example of a service allows professors at other law schools to communicate with NDSU professors on particular topics and to exchange ideas about how to use particular cases. Associate Professor Matt Barrer '82, J.D. uses a TWEN author feature for his case books, allowing fewer than a dozen such fora currently active on TWEN. Other professors who use this has is in their class can participate in the author forum until, via email, an asks Professor Barrer question about the book. Other experts are encouraged to respond, and engage in an online academic discussion about the subject. Professor Barrer also has made available his PowerPoint presentation graphics, so that professors at other law schools can use the same presentation or modify them to suit individual needs. In this way, NDSU professors can extend their reach beyond the walls of the Law School, and indeed, beyond the University premises, to impact legal education all across the country.

To take advantage of these technological developments in our own educational processes, and to prepare our students for the high technology world that will likely face upon graduation — the Law School recently completed a new Instructional Lab that permits an instructor to demonstrate any computer application in a class. Students can see what the instructor is doing on an individual computer through the use of image projection; furthermore, each student has a computer on which the student can perform the same activities. In addition, this integrated lab permits instructions to teach the same and comparable advantages of LEXIS, Westlaw, and the Internet all at once. For example, when an instructor gives a course note or case, students can locate the material and retrieve it from the database, for instance, without leaving their seats. The TWEN concept is an innovator in computer networking. In fact, the TWEN project is designed to overcome the limitations of the existing online analysis systems and the Internet. Professor Barrer is a creative professor who has formulated a new online library system for our campus. We are at the very beginning of the challenge.

Law School on the Internet

Associate Professor Matt Barrer '82, '85 J.D. is working on the Internet. As part of The Western Education Network (TWEN), Professor Barrer is a leading author for law professors using his recently published Accrediting the Law School (American Bar Association, 1997). The program allows for selected text-
books published by West Publishing and Prentice
Hall, allows law professors direct access of textbooks authors through their dedicated web site.

On his web site, Professor Barrer provides the PowerPoint slides for each topic of his own classes or NDSU in a fashion that other professionals can download and use in their own classes. Professor Barrer also answers questions and responds to comments from other professors using his online service. Currently, the TWEN project is not only of interest to law schools, but also of interest to other schools as well.

Additionally, Associate Professor Barrer, Professor Joe Bauer, and Assistant Professor Lisa Schick are another feature of the TWEN concept in cooperation with other classes to show students in class how to ask questions and engage in an online discussion about issues of interest. For example, the TWEN concept is designed to improve access to information through the use of a similar service on LEXIS, called LEEXCHANGE, for searching cases and statutes.

Professor Barrer, in particular, would be very interested in practitioners in the area of federal taxation join the author forum. He is a first-time user of a Westlaw program and would like to help explain the intricacies of the federal tax code as NDSU materials are posted. Please contact Professor Barrer by telephone at (701) 326-4512, or by email at matthew.barrer@ndsu.edu.