

Welcome to the ALL-SIS Faculty Services Committee discussion on "Supporting the Interdisciplinary and Empirical Research Needs of Law Faculty." Please join our discussion by responding to all-fsr@aallnet.org with your comments on the topics below:

- For librarians in your institution, has the need to support law faculty conducting interdisciplinary and/or empirical research increased in recent years?
- In what non-law subject disciplines or areas of empirical research (requiring data collection, empirical research methods, etc.) have law faculty shown substantial interest?
- How have law library resources and services adapted or changed to support increased faculty interest in these types of research? For example, have you offered new workshops, faculty or research assistant tutorials, class presentations, research guides, web site pages, current awareness support, other services?
- What resources have been particularly valuable in supporting interdisciplinary and empirical faculty research? What new resources have been needed/acquired?
- Has interdisciplinary and/or empirical changed some of the focus or required skill sets of the librarians, and how have they adapted to meet this challenge?
- Has the need to provide faculty support in these areas affected, or been affected by, the law library's relationship with main university library or other departmental libraries on your campus, in terms of accessing or obtaining resources, working with non-law subject specialists, or in other ways?

We'd like to exchange ideas and information on how these new research interests and demands are affecting the services we provide to law faculty.

Joanne Dugan
Chair, ALL-SIS Faculty Services Committee

The addition of new librarians has allowed us to expand the number of class presentations, library tours (along with supporting pathfinders) and faculty/staff tutorials on new--or newly revised--databases.

Maxine Asmah
Texas Tech University School of Law

At the Wise Law Library at the University of Colorado, I have noticed an increased need to support faculty interests in interdisciplinary research, in particular. In faculty services we are addressing this need in several ways:

- purchasing a federated search product and designing its content to permit our faculty and students to search across a wide variety of law and non-law subject databases that are supported on campus
- working with campus libraries to contribute to the acquisition of interdisciplinary databases
- incorporating interdisciplinary research in faculty research assistant training, through targeted tours of main campus libraries and an overview of key, non-law databases
- consulting with campus librarians who are subject experts, in the course of preparing lectures to upper-level law students who need to perform interdisciplinary research (e.g., in the sciences)
- purchasing interdisciplinary encyclopedias that can jump-start research in the law library, and
- purchasing books that help to train our librarians on interdisciplinary research, such as the Oxford Guide to Library Research or Research Within the Disciplines.

Jane Thompson
Assistant Director for Faculty Services
Wm. A. Wise Law Library, University of Colorado Law School

Here at the Georgia State University College of Law Library, we have seen an increase in the volume of truly interdisciplinary research being done by our faculty. In particular, due to an expansion of our health law faculty and our health related clinics, we do a large volume of research in the areas of public health, medicine, and the social sciences related to health and medicine. These interdisciplinary research demands help to keep us on our toes and in contact with the University Libraries to stay abreast of additions or changes to their interdisciplinary databases.

Also, our volume of ILL requests for faculty continues to increase as their research goes beyond traditional legal research. My guess is that this isn't atypical. I assume that all of us are being called upon to do a wide variety of non-legal research for our faculty. I'd love to hear with others are experiencing.

Ron Wheeler
Associate Director for Public Services
Georgia State University College of Law Library

One of the biggest questions we as librarians need to consider in this area is the degree to which we ourselves need to become expert in the ancillary discipline. Realistically, we'll never have as strong a background as we have in law; still, a basic knowledge of vocabulary and research resources is necessary.

The University of Baltimore Law Library is part of a large consortium of libraries associated with state-supported schools in Maryland. As a result, we have access to the expertise of subject-specialist librarians in engineering, medicine, social sciences, oceanography, and just about any other specialty. These colleagues are great help when trying to get oriented to a new area of research. I usually try to find a really basic introduction to the area (similar to a nutshell) so that I get a broad overview of the subject. My colleagues usually know the best titles. They can also identify the databases that are most heavily used. Often these databases are already available to us because they were purchased with consortial funds.

Another great resource is the public library. The Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore has a very strong business and science collection, and their librarians have been very helpful.

I'm curious what other sources of outside expertise people rely on?

Joanne Dugan, University of Baltimore Law Library

At the D'Angelo Law Library (University of Chicago Law School), we have been supporting multidisciplinary research for many years. We are in the (I believe) fortunate position of being a part of the University of Chicago Library; consequently our faculty have ready access to the print collections of the University Library as well as all of the databases the University Library subscribes to (as well as the electronic resources the Law Library subscribes to). Our reference librarians have had to become knowledgeable about University resources in order to be able to advise our faculty (and their research assistants) as to what is available, and how to access and use it.

An area of greatest challenge for us is empirical research - use of large datasets. I do not myself feel confident that I know enough about what large datasets are available to our faculty and how to work with them once I find them. My statistics knowledge (such as it is) goes back to undergrad and is all too often not up to the challenge posed by the kind of scholarship my faculty engage in.

Apropos of that, I would be interested to know how many law libraries subscribe to resources like TRACFED and how much (and what kind) of use your faculty makes of them.

Margaret Schilt
Faculty Services Librarian
D'Angelo Law Library

One resource I've found useful in the area of empirical research is the Empirical Legal Scholarship page that's part of the Legal Scholarship Blog - <http://legalscholarshipblog.com/empirical-legal-resources/>.

Jane Thompson
Assistant Director for Faculty Services
Wise Law Library, University of Colorado Law School

Colleagues,

Fordham University Law School is also experiencing a marked increase in the volume of interdisciplinary research being done by our faculty. And while our reference librarians are currently meeting the demand for empirical research, we are considering adding to our reference staff someone with a Social Sciences Ph.D and an MLS who would specialize in assisting our faculty with empirical research.

We would like to know if other law school libraries have hired or are considered hiring a librarian specifically for empirical research.

Mary C. McKee mmckee@law.fordham.edu
Deputy Director Fordham U

If this discussion forum will allow me a moment of shameless self-promotion (not that I make any money from it!), I recently wrote an article for Law Library Journal that touches on these very issues (99 Law Library Journal 771, in case anyone is interested).

My institution, which does not have a law school, does, however, have a tradition of interdisciplinary legal reference that stretches back decades. Basically, just about all of my work is interdisciplinary. I wrote the article because I thought that this long tradition may offer insights on this topic, which has become quite a hot topic over the past few years. The upshot of what I've learned working in this environment is that collaboration is central to effectively supporting interdisciplinary legal research, whether it is with another subject specialist librarian, or with a data lab consultant. This is especially true for empirical research. Ms. Schilt is absolutely correct: undergraduate statistics does not prepare one for the complex world of data sets, regressions, SPSS, Stata, and the like. At Princeton, there is one librarian whose expertise is to manage the identification, purchase, and organization of data sets. He often collaborates with subject specialists in this. Librarians, both the data librarian the subject specialists, assist patron in finding the correct data set from our collection. Once the proper data set is found, the data lab, staffed with non-librarian consultants, assists the patron in interpreting and manipulating that data with statistical software. Assuming that empirical research continues to grow in popularity, I can foresee law libraries hiring a data specialist. Perhaps it is already happening.

I find that close relationships with other librarians go a long way, as does a very basic training in other subject areas. It is really possible to gain a basic knowledge of the major sources of information in other subject with a half-hour training. By way of example, just this morning, our African-American Studies subject specialist demonstrated several new databases, all of which contained valuable legal content, and none of which I was aware of before.

David Hollander
Law & Legal Studies Librarian
Princeton University Library

We have not considered it, in large part, due to the wonderful assistance we get from our main library. We return the favor for the "law and types" who need legal research but are in the Journalism School, the Psych dept, etc.

One question I have is what are the stand alone's doing? I cannot imagine not having a university library (and databases to turn to) for this research. I search sociological abstracts, ABI-Inform, PsychInfo, Clase/Periodica, JSTOR, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Econlit, etc. on an almost daily basis. I cannot imagine all but the most well funded of these schools can buy all these products. Do they use partner agreements with other schools?

Just curious,
Matthew

Matthew Wright
Collection Development Librarian
William S. Boyd School of Law
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Colleagues,

Well, as a stand-alone, I'll reply. We have been able to subscribe to ABI-Inform, PsychInfo and the Proquest Research Libraries, as well as a number of other databases. We are also lucky in having a major public library nearby. We don't have partner agreements with other schools for access to online databases, but we do belong to a number of consortia. But it is definitely a problem, as new and recent hires are increasingly interdisciplinary, and empirical research is on the rise. Our collection development policy has had to change in response.

Susan Mart, Hastings

Ladies and Gentlemen:

When I spoke of the addition of new librarians earlier, I understood our discussion to focus on delivery of services. In fact, research at the Texas Tech University School of Law has been interdisciplinary for quite some time. Our librarians research and collaborate with other libraries on campus to support our professors and our eight joint-degree programs (in Law and: Business Administration, Public Administration, Agriculture, Accounting, Personal Financial Planning,

Biotechnology, Horticulture, or Environmental Toxicology) and our three Centers (in Biodefense and Public Policy; Military Law and Public Policy and Water Law and Public Policy). Once out of the law school proper, our law professors also interface their research with Tech's Medical School and the various graduate and undergraduate programs that also make up our campus. The law librarians also support this interface with our services which include--but are not limited to--research, tours and trainings. It is within this framework that our law librarians explain how the law is interwoven in our various guests' disciplines. That said, I must, however, confess a fascination for the contribution that a librarian with social science-specialization could make in such a rich and diverse atmosphere here.

Maxine Young Asmah, MSLS, JD.
Head of Public Services
Texas Tech University School of Law

As all have expressed, we too are seeing an increase in interdisciplinary research as well as empirical research. Dealing with the interdisciplinary part of it has been much more manageable. I think most of you will feel the same. As trained librarians we were exposed to many non-law resources in library school and collegial relationships librarians in our main campus libraries give us the ability to contact someone who knows what we don't remember. If we don't know exactly what to use, we at least know how to get in touch with a librarian who specializes in the area or we have an idea of resources we can use to start. Additionally, interdisciplinary research is still a matter of finding things our faculty already have an idea how to use.

Empirical research is much more complicated. We have some faculty who are well versed in the use of statistics to bolster their scholarship, but many more who are interested in the idea of adding the numbers without any idea how (which most of us don't have either). We have considered hiring someone to specifically deal with faculty empirical research but struggled with whether this is a 40 hour per week job in our library.

We decided to start a bit smaller and hire a graduate assistant in political science who has the methodology background. We figured we have more than enough people to help her with the legal perspective. She works 20 hours per week and so far this has provided a comfortable balance. Our GA helps in collection development, creates tutorials on discrete areas in empirics, has developed a web tool that points faculty to interesting data sets and has found a wealth of local resources outside of our library that will provide the more complex support we cannot. She also works directly with faculty and has taken on projects from the basic -- helping faculty understand the use of empirics in colleague's articles -- to advanced data collection and the use of statistical packages.

So far it is working out very well. What I am not so sure about now is where we go from here. I have decided to let time tell unless one of you has the answer;).

Lauren M. Collins
Head of Reference Services
and Lecturing Fellow
Duke University School of Law Library

Here at IIT Chicago-Kent, we are also the library for the business school, and the all the reference librarians have assigned faculty members in both schools through our faculty liaison program. We try to be "generalists" rather than "specialists". The faculty seem pleased by the level of service that they receive and are very complimentary about the librarians' research skills. Most of our faculty are researching in "___ & law" fields, so each requires something unique and different. If we only hired one "interdisciplinary" librarian, that poor person would be stuck with most of the research assignments. Our faculty members are very supportive of the Library, so if we decided that we needed to hire an additional specialist sometime in the future, I have no doubt that they would help us create and fund that position.

Unfortunately, our main campus library does not collect much in the social sciences (engineering school). They are very kind in helping us with any science research assistance, just as we help them with law or business research. We do jointly purchase databases that students and faculty at both sites would be able to use. However, some databases that are interdisciplinary, yet necessary for our students & faculty, are supported entirely by us. We try to make these things available to the entire university, as the main campus tries to make its databases available to us.

We are very lucky to be part of a statewide consortium (I-Share) that allows our patrons to get materials from 70+ other Illinois universities with their ID card pretty quickly. We also rely upon the public library and other subscriptions to private libraries in the area. Since Chicago is a rich library town, we can usually find what we need pretty easily. If you look at the ABA stats, you know that we borrow extensively through ILL. I'm not sure that we would be able to support our faculty as effectively if we couldn't rely upon our colleagues around town. We do buy many things that are requested through ILL...but if we bought everything that we borrowed, we'd have: a) no money for anything else & b) a pretty random collection.

We do at least one lecture in the required Legal Research and Writing IV class specifically on empirical research (ours is a two year program). You can see the handout online at:
http://library.kentlaw.edu/tutorials/EmpiricalNon_LegalResearchHandoutSp2008.pdf

We also make sure that the faculty assistants (secretaries) and research assistants are given opportunities to train on various information resources so that they can assist their assigned faculty members. The director of the library here actually supervises many of the faculty assistants, so library training has been built into the overall staff development program in that department.

Lately, we've been asked a few times to help faculty members create surveys and look into the types of software that may be used to analyze statistical information. Luckily, there are plenty of people on main campus and in the business school that can help.

I think that if we ever have another open reference position, we will need to interview with interdisciplinary research skills in mind. Of course, the more well-rounded a professional librarian is, the better he or she should be paid (something we always seem to talk about, right?). Overall, I think that academic librarians are realizing what many firm librarians realized long ago--lawyers don't need librarians to help find legal information; they need librarians to help find other types of information.

Holly Lakatos, Director of Public Services
Illinois Institute of Technology, Downtown Campus Library
Chicago-Kent College of Law & Stuart School of Business

Here at Loyola Chicago I think we're also experiencing an increase in the number of "law and ..." questions we receive, and an upswing in empirical research help requests, too. The main areas seem to be: medicine/health, history/poli sci, and economics. Like some of the other folks, we benefit from being affiliated with a university library system that is rich in resources in all of those areas, both in terms of print collection and database availability.

We do RA training in one big session at the beginning of each summer, and on an as needed/requested basis through the year. Training on the University library databases is an important component of that. We also include a unit on empirical research in our Advanced Legal Research curriculum, which is pretty enthusiastically received.

One resource that has been much appreciated by our historical researchers is the ProQuest Historical Newspapers database. Sounds kind of pedestrian, but its arrival (fairly recently) was greeted with lots of excitement and usage. The Science Direct database is great, but we have some licensing issues that limit our access, so we need to go through our Health Sciences library (on the Med School campus) some of the time which is a little frustrating. We get a fair number of requests for NBER papers, some of which we are able to scrounge up for free, some of which we can't access without paying, which usually doesn't go over too well with the researcher. Any thoughts on the best way to get more of these for free would be appreciated!

At the risk of sounding heretical, I am finding that Google Scholar and Google Books are also quite helpful in finding high quality articles and books on subjects outside our traditional bailiwick.

As far as adding an empirical specialist, it seems unlikely. All of us get these inquiries, and have become fairly adept at finding the resources we need to be responsive. As Holly said, that person would end up with most of the workload, since our faculty pretty much knows how to do regular old legal research, and tends to call on us for the more obscure stuff.

Thanks to everyone for their insightful and helpful posts!

Fred LeBaron
Faculty Services Librarian
Loyola University Chicago Law Library

I agree with this, and also Margaret's post. Empirical is more complex. I wonder if any of you have had to support or get training on new software programs (I am thinking of SPSS in particular), and helping faculty either create or download documents in these new programs from databases such as ICPSR (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research) where the data they are trying to retrieve requires this software.

Matthew Wright
Collection Development Librarian
William S. Boyd School of Law
University of Nevada Las Vegas

We have a Social Sciences Data Lab on the University of Colorado campus - <http://socsci.colorado.edu/LAB/> - and they provide training and help with SPSS software and ICPSR resources. I direct our faculty to the Lab. I think this is really beyond our expertise.

Jane Thompson
Assistant Director for Faculty Services
Wise Law Library, University of Colorado Law School

Empirical research is definitely on the upswing at AU, and seems to increase with the addition of new faculty. One thing we have done to help with the use of statistics in research is to try and incorporate as many websites as we can into our catalog to make accessing them easier for all of our users.

We also train Dean's Fellows (what we call research assistants here) formally once a year and by appointment the rest of the year and we make a point of showing them the statistics databases available through our main library. Of course I've spent much time explaining and demonstrating these same databases to those members of our faculty who are interested in this type of research.

I also direct researchers to the University Library's website on statistics at <http://library.american.edu/Help/tutorials/stats/index.html> I agree with Jane that after this type of entrée the researcher really needs to seek out the experts in the statistical field to help them.

Adeen Postar
Deputy Director
Pence Law Library
Washington College of Law, American University

Here at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, we are fortunate to have a sociologist on our law faculty, as well as several other professors with the Ph.D. in social science disciplines (in addition to their J.D.). Thus, our law faculty who undertake empirical research projects (and there have not been many yet) are able to consult their colleagues for guidance and, sometimes, participation in their work.

Like the other participants in this discussion today, we make extensive use of our university library's databases for "law &" research in other disciplines.

Diane Burkhardt
Faculty Services Liaison
Westminster Law Library
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Matthew,

That is indeed, one of the large issues facing stand alone schools. You are correct that we can't afford to buy all the cross-disciplinary services but we do aim for the ones that seem to be of greatest need. Phoenix is part of the InfiLaw consortium of law schools and we have found some vendors who are willing to deal with us as a consortium which has proved very helpful. Also, one great benefit of being in a city with a good public library system is that we have access to a large number of databases through the public library system.

However, this is one of those times when I miss having a University library.

Best,
Kris

Kristina L. Niedringhaus
Associate Dean for Information Resources & Technology
Associate Professor of Law
Phoenix School of Law

We are seeing more interdisciplinary work as opposed to empirical work requiring statistics. Our biggest interdisciplinary topic right now is Art Law. It may also be that anyone who is doing work requiring statistical analysis knows how to do it themselves. I do have a couple of faculty members who ask for everything as opposed to others who retrieve items from databases themselves (this is not an age related issue). I'm also getting more requests for complaints and other

documents from PACER. We recently had to buy a \$4.95/month subscription to a small city newspaper that only allows access to its web material by subscription and I have registered (free) for access to many of the large newspapers - some of them have online only content.

I also think that we might begin to see more co-authoring than we have in the past - that is a common practice in other disciplines. I'm not sure what kinds of issues that will bring for us, but have any of you dealt much with this?

CAROL BREDEMEYER
ASST. DIR. FOR FACULTY SERVICES
CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW LIBRARY
NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Co-authoring is common here at Chicago. The implications for the library are pretty minimal, primarily consisting of providing PDFs or copies to two persons rather than one. When the co-author is at another institution, rather than one of our own faculty, other issues arise. I have not yet been asked to provide large lists of documents from licensed databases to a co-author from another institution, but I see that as a possibility that may raise licensing issues, depending on the volume, the source and the particular license provisions. I have been asked to render PDF files into editable Word or rtf files (requiring Adobe Acrobat) and for more scanning of documents. Scanning of documents into electronic form is something that didn't come up much 5 years ago, but is now routine, both in the context of co-authorship, scholarship in general and course materials.

I agree that most of the professors who do empirical research usually have some expertise of their own. Fortunately, I have been able to refer faculty to the office here on campus that handles access and instruction for really large datasets (e.g., ICPSR) and we have expertise elsewhere in the library on things like SPSS (we've used it for manipulating LibQual results).

We also have seen a great increase in requests for documents from ongoing cases, which we fill mainly from PACER or court websites. As long as the court document needed is recent, it's not much of a problem.

Reading the posts from yesterday leads me to the conclusion that the increase in multidisciplinary and empirical research and scholarship is moving law libraries into closer relationships with their university libraries. We are also seeing more relationships between law faculty and faculty from other disciplines, reflected in more joint appointments, more co-authorship and more law faculty with subject PhDs as well as JD degrees. Many of these relationships are, so far, informal, but I wonder if more law libraries will formalize their relationship with the university library in the future, to facilitate the kinds of collaboration necessary to support multidisciplinary scholarship. Is the day of the autonomous law library coming to an end? If so, what implications does this have, or, on the other hand, what opportunities would it offer?

Margaret Schilt
Faculty Services Librarian
D'Angelo Law Library, University of Chicago

Here at Hofstra, we have been fortunate in having a good working relationship with a business librarian from the university library who works with our management programs, and we have taken advantage of her expertise in training law librarians on the more specialized business and financial databases. She has also offered to co-teach law library workshops on securities and financial information research for law students, which we will consider for future workshops.

We also have law faculty working extensively in the areas of health law and bioethics. We find it necessary to purchase articles from science publishers when titles are not covered by the university library's science database subscriptions, and we also purchase monographs in the bioethics and health policy areas for the law library when we find them unavailable in the university library collections. Our future medical school, now in the early planning stage, should eliminate this problem eventually, but in the meantime, there is definitely some need to supplement and locally support law faculty research through the law library in these fields at present, since the two libraries operate independently under separate budgets.

In the context interdisciplinary faculty research moving us into closer relationships with our university libraries, it would be interesting to hear from colleagues without a university medical school available to help them support law faculty interest in health, biotechnology, bioethics and related fields.

Toni L. Aiello
Reference Librarian
Deane Law Library
Hofstra University School of Law

For those librarians/institutions where empirical research support is demanded in-house, consider attending a summer workshop offered annually by ICPSR called Providing Social Sciences Data Services. It is an excellent four day workshop that introduces you to the basics.

Beth

Beth Adelman
Associate Director
Head of Collection Management
University at Buffalo Law Library
The State University of New York

Hey Beth,

I attended 1 in 84 or 85 when all of the info was on magnetic tape-it would be interesting to see what they are like now.

They also have month long courses on all phases of the research process. Universities that are IICPSR used to have pools of money to send faculty and staff.

David Gay
University of Tulsa Law Library

David,
I attended in the late 90s when mainframe computing was in vogue. I was employed at a research center that used magnetic tapes for backing up the servers, though.

Beth

Beth Adelman
University at Buffalo Law Library
The State University of New York

Like many of you, I have seen increased requests for assistance in obtaining interdisciplinary resources. Limited access to these resources has been answered by using ILL or utilizing the resources of the nearby large public research university. We do not have a formal agreement with the public research university; however, because I earned my MLIS at that institution and continue to serve as an adjunct instructor for one of their undergraduate courses, utilizing the resources of that institution is made somewhat easier due to the relationships I have maintained. My point being that I think it is important not only to build relationships with your university library but also with librarians in other institutions.

Three of our professors have attended the Northwestern/Washington U. Workshop on Empirical Research in Law. One of the professors has co-authored an article with a professor from the Business School, who had his Ph.D. While our library staff did provide some research assistance in preparation of the article, the requested assistance was relatively minor. The cost associated with the project was primarily funded by grants from an outside institution and the Law Alumni Fund.

While there is increasingly more free data available, I imagine that it would be a stretch for our library to fund access to some of the more costly data sets. I am interested in whether cost could be decreased by procuring data on an individual basis rather than an institutional basis. For instance TRACFED could be procured for an individual professor (with 20 queries a month and a web locker for 20,000 records) for \$50/month for a limited period of time. An institutional license, depending on FTE, can be much more expensive. Has anyone considered this type of procurement at your institutions?

I am interested in whether any law librarians have worked with Stata, attended the Northwestern/Washington U. Workshop, or are planning on attending the Empirical Research Workshop at the 2008 AALL Annual Meeting. I do have some experience with statistical analysis research and software, but it is by no means extensive. While I was working as a graduate assistant during library school, I worked with coding data and importing data into SPSS. However, the work I did was not that complicated and the "real" experts worked on most of the analysis. Additionally, as part of an LL.M. program, I had an Economics and the Law class that included a statistical component. Notwithstanding the limitations, I was interested to see if this experience might be of assistance to some of our faculty. In talking with one of our law professors that has both his Ph.D. and J.D., he indicated that he has not yet undertaken an empirical research project. While he has expressed an interest in perhaps acquiring a license for Stata, he indicated that he would likely "play

around" with it rather than requesting assistance. I don't know if his desire to work with data himself is typical of the younger generation of professors, who are perhaps more likely to be engaging in empirical research.

Finally, as Holly mentioned, firm librarians have "long ago" realized that their assistance is often needed to help find nonlegal information. This discussion has touched on the assistance that nonlegal academic librarians can provide, but perhaps firm librarians, who are experienced in this work, would also be willing to provide some useful guidance. Recently, we had a reference intern who had worked in firms for 15 years prior to deciding to get her MLIS. She mentioned that while working at firms, she had worked with SPSS several times and on one occasion quite extensively. When working on an empirical project, has anyone explored a "partnership" with a firm librarian?

Darla W. Jackson
Head of Reference and Access Services
Oklahoma City University Law Library

Perhaps our institutions need to start setting up research funds for faculty to buy short term licenses to products for their projects. I think this is common in larger research universities, especially in disciplines that are more dependent on grant funding. We are going to have to be creative in how we fund the use of new technologies and the products available through them.

Carol Bredemeyer
Assistant Director for Faculty Services
Chase College of Law Library
Northern Kentucky University

The listserv discussion is now closed. Thanks to everyone who posted! We managed to touch on all the questions for discussion, with many areas of challenge identified and many solutions and approaches shared.

A summary of the points made will be sent on Friday, and you will be informed when an archive of the discussion is available from the ALL-SIS Faculty Services website. For those who may be interested, I'll close with a reminder about the "Conducting Empirical Research" workshop (W3) at the 2008 AALL Annual Meeting, brought up earlier in the discussion by Darla Jackson.

Joanne Dugan, Chair
ALL-SIS Faculty Services Committee