

General Comments:

I hope the standards and requirements for a law school library will be kept high. I know corporations hoping to open private, for profit law schools are suggesting the standards be lowered. This is a disservice to those students paying their high tuition ,and believing they will have the same resources available that have been required in the past of accredited law school libraries. It is also an added burden on law schools in the same urban area that have put their finances into library resources, and are being forced to either refuse usage of the library or put an added burden on their own students by trying to service the students from these institutions also. It is essential to require the new law schools asking for accreditation to have a complete law library with print and online sources for their students.

Standard 601

Total Responses – 13. All ‘keep’ except as noted below.

Standard 601. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

1. (a) A law school shall maintain a law library that is an active and responsive force in the educational life of the law school. A law library’s effective support of the school's teaching, research and service programs requires a direct, continuing, and informed relationship with the faculty, students, and administration of the law school.

(b) A law library shall have sufficient financial resources to support the law school's teaching, research, and service programs. These resources shall be supplied on a consistent basis.

(c) A law school shall keep abreast of contemporary technology and adopt it when appropriate.

Interpretation 601-1:

Standard 601 is not satisfied by arranging for the students and faculty to have access to other law libraries within the region. (August 1995; August 1996)

1. Should the language in section (a) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **3** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

B. Change. I would change the first sentence to read "A law school shall maintain a law library (both in terms of collection and services) that is a proactive and responsive force in the education life of the law school, including instruction, research, reference, scholarship, and maintenance

of the collection."

I would replace the word "force" with the word "institution." I think that viewing the library as merely a force may not say enough about the library's physical presence in the law school. An argument could be made that, in this virtual information age, the space and tangible contents of the library could be reduced without diminishing the "force" of the library. The word "institution," although it can be defined in an intangible sense, gives a stronger impression of the library as a physical as well as an intellectual entity.

I would also suggest expanding the list "teaching, research and service programs" by adding the word "scholarship." I do not believe that "scholarship" and "research" are redundant terms, because "research" pertains more to investigation and inquiry, while "scholarship" represents the analytical development of knowledge. I think that it is important to stress the library's partnership in this endeavor.

2. Should the language in section (b) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **2** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

3. Should the language in section (c) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **2** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

It's not clear why this section is included in the library standards. Is there similar language that is applied to classroom and business technology? While some law libraries oversee the technology functions of the entire law school, many do not. Should this section refer specifically to library and office automation, research databases, and technology for web design and Internet access?

4. Should the language in interpretation 601-1 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **2** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

It may be time to comment as well that access to electronic resources alone does not satisfy Standard 601.

If every law library within a region, looks to the other law libraries in that region to help support its collection, either one law library will bear the burden for all others in the region, or the materials, especially in specialized areas of law, will not be available in any of the law libraries. Each law library should be responsible for supporting the curriculum and research needs of its faculty and students. Hopefully the curriculum and research needs will vary from law school to law school so that within the geographical region, all law school libraries do not have identical collections.

*I would change Interpretation 601-1 to read as follows:
Standard 601 is not satisfied by arranging for the students and faculty to have access to other law libraries within the region. Law school libraries may partner with other libraries on its campus to provide necessary resources so long as it maintains its own core collection.*

Standard 602

Total Responses – 16. All ‘keep’ without further comments.

Standard 602. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) A law school shall have sufficient administrative autonomy to direct the growth and development of the law library and to control the use of its resources.

(b) The dean and director of the law library, in consultation with the faculty of the law school, shall determine library policy.

(c) The director of the law library and the dean are responsible for the selection and retention of personnel, the provision of library services, and collection development and maintenance.

(d) The budget for the law library should be determined as part of, and administered in the same manner as, the law school budget.

Interpretation 602-1:

This Standard recognizes that substantial operating autonomy rests with the dean and faculty of a law school with regard to the operation of the law school library. The Standards require that decisions that materially affect the law library be enlightened by the needs of the law school educational program. This envisions law library participation in university library decisions that may affect the law library. While the preferred structure for administration of a law school library is one of law school administration, a law school library may be administered as part of a general university library system if the dean, director of the law library, and faculty are responsible for the determination of basic law library policies. (August 1995; August 1996)

1. Should the language in section (a) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

2. Should the language in section (b) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

3. Should the language in section (c) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

4. Should the language in section (d) be kept as is, be changed, or

be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

5. Should the language in interpretation 602-1 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Standard 603

Total Responses – 20. All ‘keep’ with comments noted below.

Standard 603. DIRECTOR OF THE LAW LIBRARY.

- (a) A law library shall be administered by a full-time director whose principal responsibility is the management of the law library.
- (b) The selection and retention of the director of the law library shall be determined by the law school.
- (c) A director of a law library should have a law degree and a degree in library or information science and shall have a sound knowledge of and experience in library administration.
- (d) Except in extraordinary circumstances, a law library director shall hold a law faculty appointment with security of faculty position.

Interpretation 603-1:

The director of the law library is responsible for the management of the law library staff. (August 1995; August 1996)

Interpretation 603-2:

The dean and faculty of the law school shall select the director of the law library. (August 1995; August 1996)

Interpretation 603-3:

The granting of faculty appointment to the director of the law library under this Standard normally is a tenure or tenure-track appointment. If a director is granted tenure, this tenure is not in the administrative position of director. (August 1995; August 1996)

1. Should the language in section (a) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

This is critical to the intellectual integrity of an academic law library.

This is, of course, the most important and controversial of the standards. Without this education and status we are just administrators, not the pivotal people in designing and implementing the kind of training programs that maintain the library as the laboratory of the law school. We might want to add a technology requirement to those already listed as we attempt to lead faculty and students down new research paths and use technology to create tutorials and other research products. As we already appear to agree, those on tenure tracks must take on the teaching and writing inherent with the status.

Libraries need full-time management by a professional director. However, in these days of budget cuts, if it is not a REQUIREMENT, this is one place institutions might seek to cut back, giving an administrator half-time responsibility in the library and half-time elsewhere.

Chuck, I would like to express a concern about all of these standards. They are written from the point of view of those who see libraries from the outside. Faculty do not generally understand how libraries operate. The result is that they judge them on the basis of their own preconceptions or experiences as users. The Dean is responsible for the law school as a whole and the faculty have responsibility for the curriculum. So you have a situation in which those who are ultimately responsible have the least knowledge about the inner workings of the library. So they hire a director and make him/her one of their own to act as a bridge between the two. That person is supposed to have the necessary expertise to make the library serve the needs of the school. But it is human nature to seek the highest status and avoid criticism. Thus leaders tend to exaggerate the hierarchical nature of the organizations they lead. Thus you need a system of checks and balances. And this system should include the professional staff. Libraries are complicated operations that need a highly trained and experienced professional staff to complete the balance.

This is a good standard and has served legal education well.

While I suspect someone could suggest language that would improve this standard, I have worked with this formula too long to imagine what that improved language would be.

If modified language is suggested that attempts to change the substance of the standard,

I would oppose it.

I modified language is suggested to clarify certain concepts I would defer comments until I saw the language.

For those of us with IT responsibility or other administrative duties outside of the library, we might be in violation of the “principal responsibility” requirement. Perhaps rewording or adding an interpretation.

2. Should the language in section (b) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Could it be changed to provide for input from library staff?

3. Should the language in section (c) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

In my opinion, it is imperative for an academic law library director to have both a JD and an MLS.

I think both degrees are necessary to do the job well, and again think it is someplace where an institution might try to cut corners (by paying a cheaper salary to someone who only has one degree or has some other degree) if it is not required by the standards.

I see a huge advantage for both degrees. One needs to understand the law school process and how the library fits in so the law degree is necessary. The library/information degree is important so that information management can be done well. I think it would be very awkward to have a director without a library degree over several law librarians who have both degrees. One really needs to understand the whole information process before there can be true leadership to new goals.

4. Should the language in section (d) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or

deleting the language.

[Keep] Absolutely. You have to be in constant communication with the faculty to stay abreast of knowing what is being proposed for research, for new programs, for new teaching ideas. You learn that by conversations, comments made at P&T meetings, and faculty committees. You have to be fully engaged with the faculty before you can be an advocate for library staffing and needs.

5. Should the language in interpretation 603-1 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Perhaps modify to reflect that a director may indirectly manage staff by delegating direct staff supervision and management to department heads and other middle managers.

I believe that it is imperative that a committee of librarians be involved in the selection process for library directors. Librarians have an in-depth knowledge of issues regarding libraries that Deans and Faculty do not. While not the primary selectors in this process, they should have a part in the process.

6. Should the language in interpretation 603-2 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

A or B -- can it be changed to provide input from librarians and staff

I think this is very important. If the faculty aren't involved in the selection, that person will never be regarded as a colleague. The faculty have a stake in their choice.

I would like to see a change in this interpretation to include "in consultation with the law library staff" or words to that effect. My concern is that the library and technology staff have input into the hiring decision so that they can voice their library, technology and management issues to the director candidates. The Dean and faculty may not be aware of or value those issues yet they may deeply affect the library and technology staff and the smooth operation of the library.

7. Should the language in interpretation 603-3 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Having just had our reaccreditation visit last week, the standards seem largely non-controversial and/or vague. I was wondering about 603-d. It seems like more and more director positions are without law faculty tenure. Are schools in that situation noted by committees or is it being largely ignored as a standard?

I would remove the (If a director is granted tenure,) again this gives to much wiggle room to not hiring a director with tenure track faculty status.

I firmly believe that unless the director is involved in all levels of faculty decision-making, their voice is not heard very well. If you want to be involved at all levels, then you have to be on tenure track. As I said in number 1 you learn a lot about the school's philosophy at P&T meetings as well as other meetings closed off to administrators and librarians.

It should be clear whether there are alternatives and if so, what these are. Is the person eligible for tenure in the library or on the law faculty? What happens if library positions in a given institution are not tenure-track appointments?

Standard 604

Total Responses – 10. All ‘keep’ with exceptions and comments noted below.

Standard 604. PERSONNEL.

A law school and its library shall have a competent staff, sufficient in number to provide appropriate library and informational resource services.

Interpretation 604-1:

Factors relevant to the number of librarians and informational resource staff needed to meet this Standard include the following: the number of faculty and students, research programs of faculty and students, a dual division program in the school, graduate programs of the school, size and growth rate of the collection, range of services offered by the staff, formal teaching assignments of staff members, and responsibilities for providing informational resource services. (August 1995; August 1996; July 2000)

1. Should the language in Standard 604 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **1** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Sufficient education and experience should be added to sufficient in numbers. Three library experienced people with MLS should outperform, say, ten newly graduated from high school people.

2. Should the language in Interpretation 604-1 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **2** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

I would include language that focuses on whether the law school serves the public. In particular, I would focus on the size of the pro se base. In Florida, the county law libraries may be closed. As a private law school that serves the public, staffing needs will definitely be impacted. I know that this may be a problem in other states.

Another factor may be scope of clientele: whether servicing just the law school; just the law school and its university as a whole; the law school, university and members of the bar; law school, university, members of the bar, and government officials; or anybody that walks in. Whatever the scope of permitted users, it should not impinge on primary service to the librarians' own law school.

Standard 605

Total Responses – 10. All ‘keep’ with exceptions and comments noted below.

Standard 605. SERVICES.

A law library shall provide the appropriate range and depth of reference, bibliographic, and other services to meet the needs of the law school’s teaching, research, and service programs.

Interpretation 605-1:

Appropriate services include having adequate reference services, providing intellectual access (such as indexing, cataloging, and development of search terms and methodologies) to the library’s collection and other information resources, offering interlibrary loan and other forms of document delivery, enhancing the research and bibliographic skills of students, producing library publications, and creating other services to further the law school’s mission. (August 1995; August 1996)

1. Should the language in Standard 605 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **1** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Add "access services" It should not be sloughed off by saying "other services." That's insulting to those who handle circulation, acquisitions, shelving, and preservation.

1. Should the language in Interpretation 605-1 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **1** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Access services means also providing the materials themselves whether through online databases or physical items. Appropriate users should also be able to request or suggest titles for the library to purchase. Circulation policies and enough circulation staff should enable easy access to users. Items should be quickly physically processed and shelves should be maintained in a timely manner. Deteriorating items should either be weeded out or preserved.

Standard 606

Total Responses – 17. All ‘keep’ with exceptions and comments noted below.

Standard 606. COLLECTION.

(a) A law library collection, including printed sources, microforms, audio-visual works, and access to electronic informational resources, shall:

(1) meet the research needs of the law school’s students, satisfy the demands of the law school curriculum, and facilitate the education of its students;

(2) support the teaching, research, and service interests of faculty; and

(3) serve the school’s special teaching, research, and service objectives.

(b) A law library shall provide within the law school’s facilities, through ownership or reliable access, a core collection of essential materials.

(c) A law library shall also provide additional collections, equipment, and services which are reasonably up to date and sufficient in quality, level, scope, and quantity to support fully the law school's programs.

(d) A law library shall maintain a written plan for development of the collection.

(e) A law library shall provide suitable space and adequate equipment to access and use all information in whatever formats are represented in the collection.

1. Should the language in section (a) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change 1 C. delete 2

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

The opening parts (606a) were taken from the AALS bylaws during the last revision. I think the language of 606a and the other parts continue to work well: it is flexible (i.e. the library has to meet the needs of the law school, not a one-size-fits-all definition) and covers a broad range of media. 606d is the one subsection that might be reformed. Written collection development policies may work as statements of broad policy and procedure, I am not convinced that they are particularly useful in the day-to-day business of deciding to purchase title X. Perhaps the way to look at this is to ask whether a library can develop a collection which meets the requirements of 606a without having a written collection development policy, or, conversely, will a written collection policy prevent a library from failing to meet 606a? The answer to the former is probably yes and the latter probably no. If that is so, why require the written policy? I think we can do without 606d.

Multiple formats are expensive, and I don't think we have to keep everything critical in all formats, but students should be required to use at least hard copy (including looseleafs), CD-Rom, web based materials, and microforms. This means knowing how to find things in each, and the strengths and weaknesses of each. I think most librarians would agree that hard copy reporters+ the digests are superior to on line. Students will only walk that path if we require the to. To send them out to practice law without being able to navigate the digests is unconscionable

I have no criticism of the meaning of 606(a), but only with its form! It would be a good thing if the wording of the 606(a) was consonant with the (still standard, I believe) grammatical convention that a colon not separate a verb from its object or an auxiliary verb from its complements.

2. Should the language in section (b) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete **1**

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

We should be training lawyers first and foremost.

3. Should the language in section (c) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **2** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

I'd delete the "reasonably up to date" phrase

If a law school is not able or willing to provide library support for a program, they should not offer it. Support, especially in specialties, can be consortial (though something more than ILL access through RLIN or OCLC)

What exactly is the difference between 606(a) and 606(c)? I have no idea what 606(c) is supposed to mean!?

4. Should the language in section (d) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **2** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

A collection plan should exist, but a collection of memos & policy determinations, reflected in correspondence and minutes of meetings, is probably more accurate than most written collection development plans. My problem with the current standard is that most collection plans (including ours) are like organization charts. Robert Townsend wrote that an organization chart is always out of date by the time it is committed to writing.

5. Should the language in section (e) be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

If you can't use it, it isn't really a library resource

Interpretation 606-1:

All materials necessary to the programs of the law school shall be complete and current. The library shall insure continuing access to all information necessary to the law school's programs. (August 1995; August 1996)

6. Should the language in Interpretation 606-1 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **1** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Add: after "complete and current" the words "and in sufficient quantity or with sufficient access for faculty and students."

Interpretation 606-2:

A library shall acquire additional copies or provide sufficient access to materials that are heavily used. (August 1995; August 1996)

7. Should the language in Interpretation 606-2 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete **1**

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Seems a little archaic in its emphasis on copies when most materials are available electronically

Interpretation 606-3:

At present, no single publishing medium (electronic, print, microform, or audio-visual) provides sufficient access to the breadth and depth of recorded knowledge and information needed to bring a law school into compliance with Standard 606. Consequently, a collection that consists of a single format may violate Standard 606. (August 1995; August 1996)

8. Should the language in Interpretation 606-3 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change 1 C. delete 1

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

I would rework this to suggest only that all-print collections would not meet the standard; as written I don't think that it encourage enough flexibility for other materials

Interpretation 606-4:

Agreements for the sharing of information resources, except for the core collection, satisfy Standard 606 if:

(1) The agreements are in writing; and

(2) The agreements provide faculty and students with the ease of access and availability necessary to support the programs of the law school. However, these cooperative relationships cannot be a substitute for a school's responsibility to provide its own adequate and accessible core collection and services. (August 1995; August 1996)

9. Should the language in Interpretation 606-4 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change 1 C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

To the extent that 606-4 bars arrangements at the extreme (e.g. new law school A doesn't want to create a library and contracts with neighboring and established law school B [which needs the \$\$] for A's faculty and students to use B's library as their own) it is worth keeping. If, however, there is any evidence that 606-4 is an impediment to cooperative arrangements, it should be amended. I haven't heard that 606-4 has limited cooperative arrangements, but you may pick up some evidence to the contrary in your survey.

Interpretation 606-5:

Off-site storage for non-essential material does not violate the Standards so long as the material is organized and readily accessible in a timely manner. (August 1995; August 1996)

10. Should the language in Interpretation 606-5 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Interpretation 606-6:

A law library core collection shall include the following:

- (1) all reported federal court decisions and reported decisions of the highest appellate court of each state;
- (2) all federal codes and session laws, and at least one current annotated code for each state;
- (3) all published treaties and international agreements of the United States;
- (4) all published regulations (codified and uncodified) of the federal government and the codified regulations of the state in which the law school is located;
- (5) those federal and state administrative decisions appropriate to the programs of the law school;
- (6) U.S. Congressional materials appropriate to the programs of the law school;
- (7) significant secondary works necessary to support the programs of the law school; and
- (8) those tools, such as citators and periodical indexes, necessary to identify primary and secondary legal information and update primary legal information. (August 1995; August 1996)

11. Should the language in Interpretation 606-6 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change **1** C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

It may make sense to merge the language of 606-6 with 606-7. While it remains true that

law faculty and students need ready access to all of the resources listed in 606-6, the format of these sources will depend very much on local needs and conditions (which is covered in 606-7). I would renumber the current language of 606-6 as 606-6(a) and make 606-7 606-6(b).

Interpretation 606-7:

The format of the core materials depends on the needs of the library and its clientele. (August 1995; August 1996)

12. Should the language in Interpretation 606-7 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

Interpretation 606-8:

The dean, faculty, and director of the law library should cooperate in formulation of the collection development plan. (August 1995; August 1996)

13. Should the language in Interpretation 606-8 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change 1 C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.

In my experience, formal collection development plans are not where the action is. On the other hand, I think it is important to state that collection development should not take place in a vacuum, but in broad consultation with faculty. Here's my stab at an alternative:

"The development of the law library collection should be guided through consultation by the director and library staff with the dean and faculty of the law school."

Interpretation 606-9:

This Standard requires the law library to furnish the equipment to print microform and

electronic documents and to view and listen to audio-visual materials in the collection.
(August 1995; August 1996)

14. Should the language in Interpretation 606-9 be kept as is, be changed, or be deleted?

Please indicate A., B. or C. _____ A. keep B. change C. delete

Please share any comments you may have about keeping, changing or deleting the language.