



**ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**

2018 Student Services Roundtable Notes

TABLE 1 MODERATOR: BRIAN DETWEILER & NICOLE DOWNING

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

What does your library do to support student organizations in your law school (i.e. journals, moot court teams, clinics, and clubs)?

- Orientation trainings and perma trainings for journals
- Staff member LibGuide for journals
- Support at law journal “cite-in”
- Workshops and orientations for moot court teams
- A few librarians addressed their efforts trying to get involved with student organizations, including sitting in on student government meetings, targeting student organizations with services, and holding movie nights for student organizations (where the library covers the public performance rights and food, while the student org promotes the event)

UNIQUE OR UNUSUAL SERVICES

Has your library implemented any unusual student services? Do you offer any fun or unique items for your students to borrow?

- The table had a discussion on therapy animals. None of the law libraries currently bring any in to the library, although all were interested in doing so. Both dogs and mini horses were discussed.
- Circulating items: sports equipment, video cameras (to be used for creating law student oral histories), laptops, earplugs, book stands, charging stations, SAD lamps, headphones, etc.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg coloring station
- Blind date with a book (books came from the library’s free lending library)
- Art show with student contributions – students vote on the art and winners have their artwork hung in the library

- Wine and cheese in the library as an end of the school year event
- Pop-up events in the library (like a make your own trail mix bar)
 - Led to a discussion of trying to provide healthier food options to students
- “Library fest” as an opening event at the library (with a nacho bar)
- Candy bags for the fall finals period with little encouraging messages inside
- Mental health awareness events
 - Mental health section in reserves collection
 - Mental health research guide
 - Pairing with school wellness departments to fund events
 - Play doh, coloring, eye masks, stress relief etc.
 - Bookstands
 - Whiteboard markers
- 1L Survival Guide
- Offering hot chocolate/tea/coffee in the library during fall/spring exam periods
- Provide snacks during fall/spring exam periods
- Putting green in the library
- Using a school mascot in library marketing efforts
- Offering study room time as a prize for participating in library social media

FEEDBACK

How do you obtain student feedback about library space and services?

- Complaint box/Suggestion box (online and physical)
- Advice filtered through the Dean who has a student advisory group
- Informal conversations with students
- Have a student member of the library committee
- Library surveys (student satisfaction survey at end of year delivered via email)
- Once a month newsletter sometimes includes a student survey question (for example, should the library get a charging station?)
- Student library advisory board

- Encouraging one-on-one research consultations and take advantage of end of research consultation to ask about library services/space
- Library is part of the school's annual survey
- Library focus groups

POPULAR WORKSHOPS

What types of research workshops have been popular at your library? Are the workshops well attended?

- Most libraries don't offer live voluntary workshops for many reasons, such as the large amount of classroom teaching occurring, a registrar approved certificate program, lawyering skills programs, or because live workshops were poorly attended.
- Videos of workshops are available on line in many libraries
- Prep for Practice workshops (four per semester with a focus on technology skills that are missing from the law school curriculum)
- Encouragement of targeted research appointments instead of group workshops

BAR PREP, PRACTICAL SKILLS, AND TECHNOLOGY

Does your library offer bar preparation, practical skills or technology training or materials?

- No bar preparation training discussed
- Libraries are offering various technology training through voluntary workshops
- Procertas and the Douglas Lusk National Society for Legal Technology discussed as options for libraries (expensive?)

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

How do you promote library events and services? Which methods seem most effective?

- Many libraries have begun to find email less effective, because of how much email students receive
- Facebook continues to be effective, but gaining access to the law school/class pages that students heavily use can be challenging
- Canva was recommended for flyer creation

TABLE 2 MODERATOR: CHARLIE PERKINS, STEWART CATON, AND KRISTEN MOORE

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

What does your library do to support student organizations in your law school (i.e. journals, moot court teams, clinics, and clubs)?

- Assigning a dedicated librarian to journal
 - Some assign a librarian to all journals
- Luncheon with editorial board to introduce them to library and resources
- Help at moot court competitions, including acting as volunteer judges
- “Boot camp” for journals
- Citation help
- Legal research guide for journals
- One attendee asked how you get involved with your journals. The consensus seems to be lunch and food.

UNIQUE OR UNUSUAL SERVICES

Has your library implemented any unusual student services? Do you offer any fun or unique items for your students to borrow?

- Circulating items: standing desks, puzzles, games, chargers, Lego sets, portable white boards
- One librarian mentioned they had inherited a loom, which students are free to use. He wasn't sure if anyone actually had.
- 3D printer – used for evidence and trial classes
- One library had a “fun” collection with books and movies focused on pop culture and the law
- One library had desk bikes and the library had a competition for who could get the most miles.
- Another library had an orientation with tour guides. Prizes raffles were done for those who went through the tour. Student workers helped. And, attendees went through various stations in the library with highlights mentioned between stations.
- Annual open house in the library - “Library fest” – stations and treats throughout library with attendees having a “BINGO” card to complete for prizes.
- One library has a “Wheel of Fun”
 - It is brought out during student appreciation week
 - Professors donate gifts (gift cards, candy bars, etc)
 - Spin the wheel and you win the prize you land on

FEEDBACK

How do you obtain student feedback about library space and services?

- Comment box – but it is rarely used
- Micro surveys on iPad in the library with signage – filling out survey enters the student in a drawing for a prize
- Before spinning the “Wheel of Fun” students have to answer a question
- During October, one library has an “Infotainment” open house. Students are asked what services were used. This serves two purposes. It lets the library know what the students are using, but it also gives students a list of what services the library offers, so they can learn about things they may not have known.
- Library surveys – Some send surveys via email around Spring Break. Others do surveys during orientation with 1Ls (Orientation is mandatory, so it almost 100% completion of the survey. A follow-up survey is done in the 2nd semester in their classes. The follow-up has less participation because it requires professor cooperation.)

POPULAR WORKSHOPS

What types of research workshops have been popular at your library? Are the workshops well attended?

- One librarian was offering “microworkshops” called “Breakfast Bytes” – sessions covered small tech tips like creating a section symbol, using styles, etc. Table was set up in common area for students to stop by.
- A lot of libraries are trying to do trainings by going to where the students are
- Some are doing Bluebook workshops
- Some are guest lecturing in classes
- Some are providing “Lunch & Learn” sessions. Attendance is capped to drive demand. However, reducing food dropped attendance.
- Some are still experimenting with workshops to see what works. Attendance is tough. RSVPs aren’t always reliable. And, even when students say they want workshops, certificates, and extra trainings, getting them there and finding what works is still hard.
- Side conversation was had about how involved librarians were in their school’s LRW classes. Some are involved in the classes. Some have their own stand alone classes. It was suggested that librarians offer to teach for professors when they need to be out, rather than cancelling class.

BAR PREP, PRACTICAL SKILLS, AND TECHNOLOGY

Does your library offer bar preparation, practical skills or technology training or materials?

- Career Development support: sent students information about how librarians can help with On Campus Interviews
- Libraries are offering technology testing
- Some are teaching a Legal Technology in Practice course and others are in the process of developing

a similar course.

- Many post tutorial videos and create LibGuides
- Some do brief formatting sessions right before briefs are due.
- One librarian commented on being overrun with brief formatting, TOA, and TOC questions right before they are due. It was suggested, she create “office hours” for those questions and let R&W faculty know when she would be available, so students knew when to stop by.

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

How do you promote library events and services? Which methods seem most effective?

- Listservs - students are autoregistered for listerv. They get a message every couple of months so they are not overwhelmed with emails from the library.
- Facebook
- Monitors in the library with advertisements
- Including library information in general law school announcement that is emailed out to students daily.