Introduction

The Collection Services Department at the Boston University School of Law Fineman and Pappas Law Libraries undertook a series of initiatives during Fiscal Year 2017 to improve services and access to information for our patrons. These included implementing a new user interface for our online catalog, setting up a successful demand-driven acquisition program, taking advantage of the University’s institutional repository and implementing a law school institutional repository, coordinating a first-of-its-kind agreement between a publisher and a local consortium, and taking over maintenance of the faculty publications database and new purchase notifications. We were able to accomplish all of this, while undergoing staff changes, through significant teamwork and collaboration.

The Collection Services Department includes Anna Lawless-Collins, the Associate Director for Systems & Collection Services; Jennifer Robble, the Information Resources Management Librarian; the Serials & Metadata Librarian; Kerrin Arnold, the Collections Technician; Allen LaRose, the Serials Control Technician; and Linda Boucher, the Senior Accounts Coordinator. The Serials & Metadata Librarian position was filled this year by Stefanie Maclin-Hurd, Kate Oh (a temporary worker provided by Accufile), and Thurman Adkins. Dominik Johnson served as the Collections Technician for the first two months of the year.
Major accomplishments

New Online Catalog User Interface

Jennifer Robble, the Information Resources Management Librarian, worked closely with the Mugar Memorial Library staff to implement a new user interface for Primo, our online catalog. This new interface was implemented after extensive user testing and feedback and provides more information on the search page, a cleaner interface, more robust filtering, and an improved search algorithm. Jennifer continued to solicit feedback and implement changes throughout the year to improve the search experience for our patrons. The chart below shows the increase in Primo searches after the new interface was implemented. Usage increased dramatically in January and remained consistently high through the rest of the academic year, demonstrating the use patrons found in the improved interface.

OpenBU Implementation

The Collection Services department worked closely with the OpenBU team at the Mugar Memorial Library to move law school faculty into compliance with Boston University’s Open Access policy. This entailed setting up a collection for law school faculty scholarship in the University-wide institutional repository, OpenBU, and beginning to load faculty scholarship into the repository. Jennifer coordinated this effort and trained Kerrin Arnold, the Collections Technician, in the upload process.

Digital Commons Kickoff

The department began work on a law school-only institutional repository this year in addition to OpenBU. This repository, Scholarly Commons at Boston University School of Law, is on bepress’s Digital Commons platform and allows more customization and flexibility. The department worked with Communications & Marketing to customize the set-up, implemented the platform by working closely with the vendor, created
workflows and training documentation, and trained Faculty Services and library staff on uploading materials to Digital Commons. We also developed internal procedures to help us move forward efficiently and coordinated with similar services on campus, including MyCV and OpenBU, to make faculty scholarship storage smooth and efficient. Jennifer coordinated this initiative and worked with Anna, the Associate Director, and Thurman Adkins, the Serials & Metadata Librarian, to ensure a smooth implementation.

**Demand-Driven Acquisition Program**

Demand-driven acquisition, or DDA, is a process that allows the library to make ebooks available to patrons and only purchase those ebooks when patrons access them. Anna worked with Jennifer and library vendor GOBI Library Solutions to implement a DDA program in early 2017. From January through June, library patrons accessed twenty-one titles the library may not have normally collected. This instant access to information allowed our patrons to conduct more efficient research and we hope the program continues to be successful in Fiscal Year 2018.

![DDA BOOKS PURCHASED](image)

**Faculty Bibliography**

Collection Services took over the maintenance of the Faculty Bibliography database in the spring. Kerrin and Anna worked with Access Services to determine current procedures and documented their own procedures; Kerrin then took responsibility for adding new information as we were made aware of faculty publications. She also undertook a project to clean up publications that were marked as pending to ensure faculty publications are up to date. This project ties in to the repository projects and allows us to ensure faculty publications are updated and correct in the various law school sites.

**E-Alerts**

Kerrin also took responsibility for sending e-alerts for new monograph notifications to interested faculty. She learned how to use several library systems in this process and documented her own workflows. By
the end of the fiscal year, she had sent 560 new monograph notifications and received numerous positive responses from faculty members indicating interest in the new books.

**NEW MONOGRAPH NOTIFICATIONS**

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**BALLCO & Elgar Online**

The Law Library is a member of the Boston Academic Law Library Consortium, which until now has largely been focused on maintaining a shared print collection. This year the group undertook a new project to jointly purchase a set of ebooks. Anna spearheaded this project, coordinating with Elgar Online and the Consortium to negotiate various options and ultimately come up with the best possible outcome. In the end, the group negotiated a unique and original purchase of the 2017 Elgar Online Law ebook collection, allowing each school to own the complete set of ebooks at a price that works for each school.
New Databases

The library purchased several new databases this year (see sidebar for a complete list). Among these, we were particularly excited to add the Wolters Kluwer Study Aids platform, which allows students to access Emanuel, Examples & Explanations, Glannon, and several other study aids in ebook format. This addition also means that the library now provides electronic access to study aids by all three major publishers: West, Lexis, and Wolters Kluwer. In addition, we were able to negotiate a perpetual license to JustisOne, a unique and original database of law from Commonwealth countries. This will ease international research and provide a cost-savings over a long-term period. We also added access to Supreme Court Insight from ProQuest, which works smoothly with Legislative Insight and Regulatory Insight and allows our patrons easy electronic access to Supreme Court documentation and transcripts while showing how all three branches of government have interacted with an issue.
Monographs

The library purchased 2,007 new print and electronic monographs this year. These included 1,310 ebooks on various platforms, 755 print books, 53 course reserve titles, 75 faculty requests, and 14 faculty publications. Of the new materials we received over the year, we checked items out to patrons 3,251 times. We also added several ElgarOnline subject collections, new Bloomsbury Law ebook collections, and worked with the Mugar Memorial Library on joint ebook purchases from Springer and Palgrave.

![Faculty Purchase Requests By Month](chart1)

![Monograph Acquisitions By Month](chart2)
Serials

Over the course of the year, the library was able to save $83,427 on serials that are no longer needed or are available elsewhere in the collection. This money went towards new database subscriptions and monograph purchases. These savings were largely undertaken as part of our annual review of subscriptions with Harrassowitz, our subscription agent. We also continued to provide excellent routing and alert services to our patrons, including routing 508 print items and providing electronic routing support for 209 titles. We continued to shift towards an electronic serials collection during this fiscal year, reducing our print subscriptions where they were unneeded or duplicative, and increasing accessibility to electronic holdings.
Ex Libris’s Alma and Primo continue to evolve. Jennifer manages monthly changes to both systems, notifying appropriate staff and working with Ex Libris to resolve any issues that arise in the systems. In October 2017 we will have been using the systems for five years. Jennifer conducted trainings for interested staff on more efficient ways to use the systems and worked with Ex Libris to implement staff and patron suggestions in both systems. She also resolved patron electronic access issues and coordinated with vendors and University IS&T.
Metadata

We made several thousand resources discoverable in our catalog this year, including print and electronic resources, through a combination of original cataloging, copy cataloging, and taking advantage of vendor-supplied records. Cataloging all of these resources makes them findable in Primo and allows greater patron access to the information available in all of our databases. Jennifer, Anna, Thurman, Stefanie, and Kerrin worked on these records this year and took advantage of Kate Oh’s expertise in original cataloging to ensure our records contain correct data.
Professional Development

The Collection Services staff continued to show a dedication to ongoing learning and development in Fiscal Year 2017. Anna attended the American Association of Law Libraries Management Institute on a grant from the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section; presented a session at the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting on electronic resource usage statistics; ran a roundtable discussion of library acquisitions at that same meeting; continued to serve as the social media coordinator for the Law Librarians of New England; and was elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect for the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section. She wrote a monthly blog for the Technical Services Special Interest Section and wrote an article for the Technical Services Special Interest Section about attending the Leadership Academy on a grant from the Section. In addition, she attended the two annual Law Librarians of New England annual meetings and attended the NELLCO symposium.

Jennifer attended Association of Boston Law Libraries meetings; continued to be involved in the Special Interest Sections for Academic Libraries, Technical Services, Online Bibliographic Records, and Computer Services; served on the Law Librarians of New England Service Committee, and oversaw the planning and implementation of the spring Law Librarians of New England meeting hosted at Boston University.

Kerrin took part in the Legal Research Instruction Program from the Law Librarians of New England and Linda took advantage of University trainings in SAP and other tools she uses regularly. Allen took part in Alma trainings provided by Ex Libris.