Introduction

The Collection Services Department at the Boston University School of Law Fineman and Pappas Law Libraries continued to provide outstanding service and access to information during Fiscal Year 2018. The department made significant progress in bringing the law school’s Institutional Repository online, conducted outreach to other departments in the library system and the law school, updated web security protocols with Information Systems & Technology, and worked with a temporary archivist to organize the law school archives. As is typical for this department, we were able to accomplish all of this 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; Mallory Kasinec, the Serials & Metadata Librarian; Kerrin Arnold, the Collections Technician; Allen LaRose, the Serials Control Technician; and Linda Boucher, the Senior Accounts Coordinator.

Major accomplishments

Scholarly Commons at Boston University School of Law

The law school-specific digital repository, Scholarly Commons at Boston University School of Law, complements Boston University’s OpenBU repository. It provides a platform for our faculty scholarship to reach a global audience, as illustrated by the map below showing worldwide downloads during the year.
This year the department continued to work with Faculty Services on documenting procedures and tweaking workflows to increase upload efficiency. In conjunction with Faculty Services, we loaded the repository with faculty scholarship created between 2012 and 2017. Faculty Services performed the data entry and Collection Services answered their questions and loaded complex and unique content. We were able to move on to Phase II of the project, clearing copyright for materials and loading current work and work published prior to 2012.

Mallory began to generate monthly statistics illustrating faculty scholarship downloads from various places. In the next fiscal year, we plan to continue this work and to create a Shorter Works collection for items like blog posts. Jennifer is working on a special site for the materials from Elizabeth Battelle Clark, a faculty member with extensive papers. The chart below shows the number of downloads from Scholarly Commons during the year.
In conjunction with this work, Kerrin continued to maintain the faculty bibliography, uploading new articles and other works to showcase faculty scholarship.

Outreach

The department conducted outreach on several fronts this year. Jennifer held Lunch and Learns to help other librarians better use our catalog and systems and worked with Sarah Hunter at the Mugar Memorial Library on a program to help librarians better understand how Primo works. Jennifer and Mallory spearheaded a project to help faculty identify databases they could integrate into their curricula. Kerrin and Anna conducted a survey of faculty to ensure the library is notifying them of books they are interested in and better meet their needs. This outreach has helped Collection Services better meet our patrons at the point of service. In total, Kerrin sent 977 e-alerts and 544 new book notifications to faculty this year.

Collection work

Anna completed revisions of the collection development policy and updated the internal working document to better help librarians select appropriate materials for the collection. The results of this work included a collection development policy on the library website as well as two internal documents: one narrative document that further articulates policies, and one spreadsheet to use in selecting materials. These have increased selection workflow efficiency and helped us ensure we are notifying faculty of new purchases in their areas of interest. We continued to monitor the Demand Driven Acquisition program put into place last year and we evaluated Evidence-Based Acquisition as a purchasing model. Mallory worked with Research Services to hire a temporary archivist and supervised the position in an effort to make the archives more usable.
**Improved security and workflows**

Jennifer worked closely with IS&T to implement a new secured protocol for library resources, sheparding the change from http to https. She also worked extensively to document all procedures and, along with Mallory and Linda, oversaw the transition from an invoice-based renewals process to using Alma’s renewal list functionality. Finally, Jennifer helped move many library functions to a new workflow management system using KanbanFlow, ensuring that our work is better tracked and monitored.
The library added several new databases this year. These included a multi-year license to JustisOne Caribbean Core, 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. Secret Intelligence Files, a database of British foreign relations, and FBI Confidential Files: Radical Politics in the US 1945-1972, are two complimentary databases that contain original government surveillance records. We also added Records of the Children’s Bureau and the Struggle for Women’s Rights, along with Progressive Era: Reform, Regulation, and Rights, New Deal and World War II: President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Office Files and Records of Federal Agencies, all four of which work together to highlight changing legal rights and agency powers over time. We added collections of NAACP Papers and papers of the ACLU to aid researchers in civil rights law, and PolicyMap, an interactive mapping tool, allows researchers to look at rights and social conditions for various demographics across the country. The sidebar shows the majority of the new databases added this year to aid our patrons in their research.
Monographs

The library purchased 1,141 new print and electronic monographs this year. These included 428 ebooks on various platforms, 720 print books, 126 course reserve purchase requests, 104 faculty requests, and 17 faculty publications. Of the new materials we received over the year, we checked items out to patrons 3,446 times.

We also added several ElgarOnline subject collections and worked with the Mugar Memorial Library on joint ebook purchases from Springer and Palgrave.
Over the course of the year, the library was able to save $113,143.58 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 168 print titles and providing electronic routing support for 202 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. We added 12 new physical subscriptions and two new electronic subscriptions and we converted two titles from print to electronic access. We also continued to work towards the University’s e-preferred purchasing and subscription model. The pie charts below show the growth of our electronic serials spending (blue for electronic only and orange for print plus electronic) as our print-only spending (gray) shrinks.
Boston University implemented Ex Libris’s Alma as our integrated library system and Primo as our discovery layer in 2012 and both systems have continued 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. 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 as complex issues arose on both sides. She also worked with IS&T as they transitioned from the unsecured http to the secure https access protocol and liaised with vendors to facilitate a smooth transition for library resources.
We made several thousand print and electronic resources discoverable in our catalog this year through a combination of original cataloging, copy cataloging, and vendor-supplied records. We added 949 print records, 70,779 electronic records, and 1 digital record. Cataloging all these resources makes them findable in Primo and allows greater patron access to the information available in all our databases.

Near the end of the fiscal year, we began a pilot project wherein we will manually check for new records for library databases and record sets on a regular basis. This project will help our patrons use these large databases by making the database component parts findable in Primo.
Professional Development

The Collection Services staff continued to show a dedication to ongoing learning and development in Fiscal Year 2018. Anna continued to serve as the social media coordinator for the Law Librarians of New England; served as Vice Chair/Chair Elect for the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section; attended and served on BALLCO; and blogged for TS-SIS Tech Scans. She is an active member of the Technical Services Special Interest Section and the Professional Engagement and Growth Special Interest Section.

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 Access to Justice Committee, and attended the fall BALLCO meeting on Anna’s behalf. Jennifer and Mallory both attended the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries and Jennifer wrote a review of a conference session after attending.

Mallory attended the Charleston Library Conference, the NELLCO Symposium, the annual meeting of the Ex Libris Users of North America, the New England Technical Services Librarians meeting, and the Law Librarians of New England Spring meeting.

Kerrin took a Library Juice Academy course on cataloging and metadata 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.