

EOS Case Study:

CHARLESTON SCHOOL OF LAW



The Charleston School of Law (CSOL) offers students the unique opportunity to study the time-honored practice of law amid the beauty and grace of one of the South's oldest and most prestigious cities, Charleston, South Carolina. A year ago CSOL had no building, no faculty and no students. Today, the law school is housed in a 19th-century train depot that has been upgraded to offer 21st-century amenities including wireless Internet, classrooms, a coffee bar, and a two-story library with arched ceilings.

CSOL offers a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and is projected to grow over the next three years to have a student body of 700. To accomplish that, CSOL is working towards achieving many goals, which includes providing a Law Library that meets the needs of their educational program, while developing and maintaining technological capabilities reflective of the educational and professional needs of the legal field. The CSOL Law Library supports the research and teaching needs of the faculty and students in addition to local attorneys who use the law school's library to obtain free electronic access to Westlaw and Matthew Bender resources.

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Gordon Russell Associate Dean, Director of Library & Information Technology, Professor of Law, Charleston School of Law, Charleston, SC.

Gordon Russell, Director of the Law Library and Information Technology Services, intends for the library to be on the vanguard of modern legal research. Although the facility will retain the familiar bound reporters and legal encyclopedias, many materials will be made available electronically or via Internet-based lending arrangements. CSOL also plans to be the first law school nationwide to eschew troublesome microfiche in favor of electronic access. These goals have created a legal library that is better in tune with contemporary law practice than a facility with row after row of dusty volumes.

The library is in the early stages of building their collection. Since setting up the library, the collection has grown to include about 30,000 print volumes and links to 30,000 titles in digital format. The library subscribes to over 700 print serials and is looking to provide digital links to over 10,000 serials with the end-goal of having links to 100,000

Solution Overview

Challenge: The Charleston School of Law needs to create a modern, Web-based legal library in tune with contemporary legal practice needs and electronic research.

Solution: "As a new library, we were looking for a product that was web based, that offered a hosted solution and that was flexible enough to provide the support needed to add large numbers of MARC records as we obtained large digital collections and would allow us to focus on the core functions of the library without having to build a technology infrastructure to support an integrated library system," states Gordon Russell, the Director of the Law Library and Information Services.

ASP-hosted EOS.Web has enabled the Charleston School of Law to take a leading position in the creation of an innovative, digital law library utilizing new concepts and techniques.

full text digital works by the end of summer 2005. The library has a small core collection of monographs and treatises to support the curriculum, but is looking to provide access to a large number of digital materials including those found at ebrary, Netlibrary, EBL, and History Books online while at the same time build links to open access materials on the web such as NAP, escholarship, Brooking Institute and other legal materials.

"In the past libraries provided the good housekeeping seal of approval to information by physically collecting the print materials and providing access points to that information," states Gordon.

Today, the CSOL library staff uses the integrated, hosted EOS.Web system as a portal that provides links to relevant digital information. "Our goal is to provide locally organized access globally. The EOS.Web system enables our small staff to successfully manage the digital collections that the library owns or subscribes to, providing a state-of-the-art information-access bridge to our users. We are also working to link law school exams and faculty publications using EOS.Web KnowledgeBuilder."

EOS.Web KnowledgeBuilder classifies information that is not a good fit for a typical bibliographic record, such as a legal work product or internal documents. Librarians can visually create the record and fields for their custom taxonomy or classification system, making available for on-the-fly searching a structured database containing files complete with their associated custom metadata, such as abstracts.

Evaluation and Implementation

During their preliminary investigation, CSOL evaluated 4 library solutions before arriving at their decision, including Endeavor, Innovative, Auto-Graphics, and EOS. During this due diligence process, they set up demonstrations, visited libraries using the various systems and talked with librarians using the different systems.

"We were very impressed with the price/performance of the system, the support, and the hosted solution that EOS offered. We also were interested in the KnowledgeBuilder component and felt that it would provide us with opportunities in the future for building a digital archive of the school", states Gordon. "We are overall pleased with the system now that we are through the implementation phase. Since we are building a large collection we have also been pleased with how responsive EOS has been to our questions and helping us to deal with the need to add large Marc collections to our catalog."

"We were able to quickly get EOS.Web set up and running. Adding digital resource records via EasyMarc has made it easier for us to accomplish our goals and structure a library portal that provides the opportunity for our faculty and students to be successful in their research needs," states Gordon. "We have been very pleased with the technical support department at EOS as we move forward. We also found the trainer who came to work with us to be outstanding."

Overall, CSOL views the library and EOS International as responsive to the needs of their students and faculty.



Gordon Russell is the Associate Dean, Director of Library and Information Technology and Professor of Law at the Charleston School of Law Library in Charleston, S.C. He directs the law library, information technology, and teaches.

Before coming to Charleston, Russell was Director of the Law Library at St. Thomas University Law Library in Miami. He received his B.A. from Brigham Young University, M.L.S. from Brigham Young University, LL.B. from University of Western Ontario and J.D. from the University of New Mexico. He is a member of the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Association of Law Schools, and the Canadian Association of Law Libraries. Additional credentials include:

Published works: *Reengineering the Law Library Resources Today For Tomorrow's Users: A Response to 'How Much of Your Print Collection Is Really on WESTLAW and LEXIS-NEXIS?'* 21(2/3) Legal Reference Services Quarterly 29, 2002

Co-editor: *Law Library Collection Development in the Digital Age*, Haworth Press, Inc. 2002.

Speeches:

- *The Future of the Law Library* at the 2003 SEALS Conference
- *David In, Goliath Out? Do We Need Larger Libraries to Accommodate More Books?* at the 2001 American Association of Law Libraries Conference
- *Redefining Academic Legal Reference - Meeting the Challenge of Distributed Users* at the 2nd International Conference on Technology in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, 2001
- *Re-engineering the Law Library as a Virtual Reference Support Center*, ICTE 2000 Conference

Panelist:

- *Embracing Virtual Technologies: A Library Experience with Virtual Reference and Artificial Intelligence* at the VRD 2003 Digital Reference Conference
- *The Librarians Role in Space Planning - Fast Forward*, at the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, Law School Facilities Committee, Bricks, Bytes and Continuous Renovations Conference, 2003, Suffolk University Law School

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