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SC Library Spotlight - University of South Carolina Law Library

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Abstract

A reference librarian describes the move of the Coleman Karesh Law Library, now known as the University of South Carolina Law Library, including historical perspective, notes on the moving process, and a floor-by-floor account of the new Library.

Keywords

University of South Carolina, Law Library, Move



SC LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

University of South Carolina Law Library

The Coleman Karesh Law Library opened its doors in 1974 as an integral part of the newly-constructed University of South Carolina Law Center, with a collection then totaling 113,428 volumes.¹ In the years that followed, that number would ultimately surpass 500,000 volume equivalents as holdings grew to include digital resources in addition to traditional print and microform assets.² The library moved to a new location in May 2017, and is now known as the University of South Carolina Law Library. While preparing to relocate this expansive collection librarians, and staff faced the challenge of how best to transport and arrange these materials in the new library. The culmination of months of planning and preparation, the new library has inherited a rich legacy, and remains steadfastly committed to service to the university, the legal community, and members of the public.

In advance of the move, the collection was evaluated for potential weeding opportunities. Usage statistics prepared by the library's circulation department provided a list of rarely-viewed titles, which were then reviewed by librarians as well as other faculty before being selected for withdrawal. The move also provided an opportunity to reassess the library's journal collection and identify existing redundancies between print holdings and digital assets in databases like HeinOnline. These efforts simultaneously streamlined the library collection while also lessening the number of volumes that would need to be physically moved.

¹ Melton, P. R. (2017). Law Library History. Retrieved from <http://www.law.sc.edu/library/about/history.pdf>

The library's print collection was next reviewed by a

professional library moving company, Hallett Movers.³ Hallett's skilled movers measured and labeled the collection shelf-by-shelf. Once these preparations

were complete, the books were loaded into specially-sized boxes, with the goal of seamlessly transferring each book to its new location.



² See <http://www.law.sc.edu/library/about/>

³ See <http://www.hallettmovers.com/>

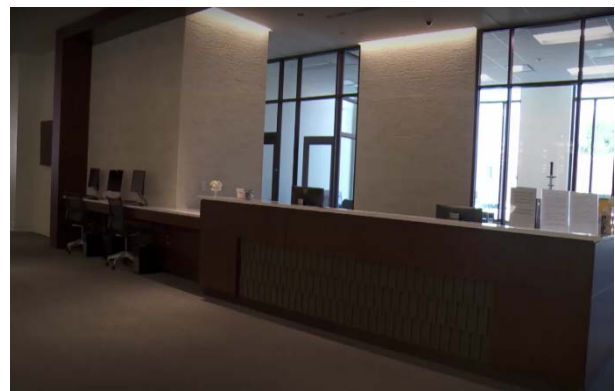
The library closed on May 8, and would remain closed while the print collection was moved. However, librarians seized the opportunity to document the process and to keep patrons informed through social media. Posts to the library's Facebook page and blog featured pictures of the progress being made in addition to other content, including a video shot from the perspective of one of the books being moved.⁴ You can find these posts as well as the library's latest updates by following "UofSCLawLib" on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



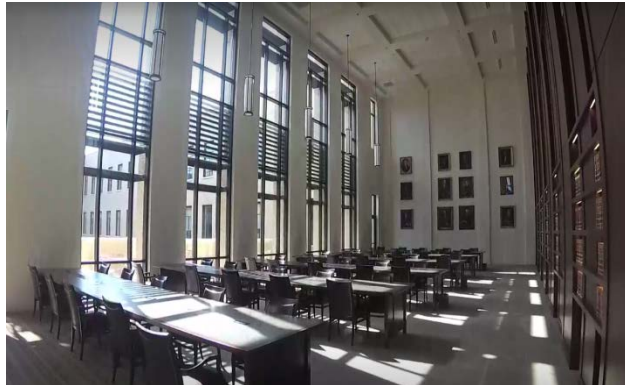
After the move was completed, the University of South Carolina Law Library opened 22 days later on May 30, 2017.

⁴ See: <http://library.uofsclaw.org/2017/05/from-a-books-perspective/>

The new library is comprised of four floors, including a basement. The first floor contains many points of interest that will be familiar to longtime patrons, such as the circulation and reference desks, a copy room, and the attorney's room – a space reserved for members of the bar to conduct focused research. Many of the library's most frequently-used items can be found here, including primary legal materials and student study aids. Study rooms have been added for students on this floor, which is also directly adjacent to the Student Commons area. The first floor provides an inviting environment for beginning one's research and offers direction for more advanced inquiry.



The second floor houses half of the classified U.S. legal collection, the Coleman Karesh Reading Room, and the South Carolina Legal History Room. The Coleman Karesh Reading Room, the library's premier study space, is also the location of the Memory Hold the Door repository – a memorial honoring members of the Bench and Bar who exemplify the highest standards of the legal profession.⁵ The South Carolina Legal History Room contains the library's oldest and rarest items, including books, artifacts, and historic furnishings. On the second floor, students will also find additional study rooms, open study space, and an excellent view of the State House dome.



The third floor is the location of the Library Director's office, the Reference Librarian offices, and the Technical Services department. This floor also contains the second half of the classified U.S. legal collection, a conference room, views into the Coleman Karesh Reading Room, and study space.



The basement houses the remainder of the library's classified collection, print journals, South Carolina case records and briefs, and microform materials. In a first for the library, the basement utilizes compact shelving units to accommodate as many items as possible – while still allowing for ample student study space.

⁵ See: <http://law.sc.edu/memory/>



The University of South Carolina Law Library will soon be welcoming the law students of the class of 2020, and likewise invites you to research and explore our extensive print and digital collections. The library's location is at 1525 Senate Street in Columbia, only a few blocks from the South Carolina Supreme Court, the State House, and the downtown area. For more information, including hours of operation and access to the online catalog, please visit the library website at <http://www.law.sc.edu/library/>. From our website, you may also take a virtual tour of the library highlighting each of the points of interest noted above.⁶

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⁶ See: <http://library.uofsclaw.org/2017/07/the-new-law-library-a-video-tour/>