

Library and Technology Committee

Final Report to Faculty Council

March 27, 2013

Library and Technology Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: J. Papadopoulos and M. Fadel

Members: L. Austin, S. Barker, J. Bolan, A. Emon, A. Green, A. Katz, G. Medves, M. Randell, D. Reid, S. Stern, K. Tam

Student Representatives: Aaron Hunt, Sarah Lemay, Brendan Stevens

Mandate 2012/13:

In the fall of 2012, Dean Moran asked that the Library and Technology Committee focus on the library and technology related issues that arise from the Faculty of Law's Building project.

The committee formally met twice: on November 13 and March 15. Discussion was ongoing throughout the academic term with the co-chair consulting with members of the committee on relevant issues as they arose.

Classroom Technology:

The Committee recognises that classroom technology requirements will evolve as new technologies become available. It is likely that our needs may change once the new building is completed. Any building design should be able to accommodate the necessary wiring and hardware to allow for inexpensive installation of the current technology. The Library and Technology Committee should continue to be consulted on classroom technology as the project progresses. The Law School should aim to be at or near the technology standard for other professional faculties on campus.

At a minimum the Committee recommends that all classrooms, both large and small have the following capabilities:

- Digital projectors, or where appropriate large video monitors
- A current laptop or a podium with high speed internet access, USB ports and the capability of controlling a projector or video monitor
- Wireless internet access
- A DVD/Blu-ray player
- An adequate number of power outlets for student use
- Serious consideration should be given to adopting the University of Toronto's standard electronic podium with intercom for technical support.

The Committee also recommends that both large and small classrooms should be set up so as to easily accommodate whatever videoconferencing technology will be standard at the time of the building's opening. This will allow the school to have the flexibility to have remote guest speakers and remote students in each classroom. This will also allow for the easy webcasting of conferences, meetings and any continuous education programs that the school may develop. This will require microphones and speakers in the classroom.

While the general assumption is that wireless access will be ubiquitous in the new buildings, some faculty have expressed a preference for having one or two classrooms with the option of turning the wireless off. It is unclear if this is technologically possible. Broader consultation on this issue needs to be undertaken.

Library:

The Committee considered both the short term library requirements at the temporary space in Birge Carnegie as well as those for the new library space.

Birge Carnegie: The Committee makes the following recommendations:

- The temporary space is configured to allow for controlled after- hours access to the reading room for members of the law school community.
- The reading room is configured to ensure that student study space is maximised.
- The Library pursue partnerships with other neighbouring libraries to allow access to Law Library materials from those locations and to ensure that other libraries are aware that law student use of those spaces will increase.
- Restrictions on "in-library use only" materials (reserve and reference materials) should be relaxed to allow students to take these materials out of Birge Carnegie and use them in the study space of their choice for the appointed time.

The Committee recognizes that finding small rooms in which students can practice for moots and study in groups is going to be a challenge during the building transition. The Committee therefore recommends that any temporary space allocation decisions consider the need to supply similar space to the study rooms which were provided at Bora Laskin.

New Building: The new building plan calls for a mix of large table seating, carrels and soft seating. The committee recommends that the number of carrel study spaces be adequate to meet the needs of the summer RA program. Consideration should be given to configuring the space so as to allow after-hours access to the reading room or other suitable study space.

The emphasis in the new building should be to provide comfortable and functional public and study spaces to allow for easy access and use of the Library's electronic and print collections.

Stacks space should be minimised by the extensive use of compact moveable (high density) shelving.

Collections: In addition to its electronic holdings, Bora Laskin has about 220,000 print volumes in its collection. It is one of a handful of libraries in Eastern Canada with a complete print collection of primary Canadian and English materials. It also has extensive collections of foreign and international primary materials. These include some reporters for which we have the only copy left in Canada.

In the short term the print collections will be divided as follows

- About 26,000 volumes will move to Birge Carnegie. This is the core collection consisting of high use monographs, reference materials and key statutory collections.
- 100,000 volumes will be housed on the 13th floor of Robarts in open stacks. This includes monograph materials that are frequently to occasionally used, as well as case law and foreign encyclopaedias, and selected journals that are not available electronically. Together with the core collection at Birge Carnegie this should be adequate to support most research and scholarship at the law school.
- About 80,000 volumes will be stored and inaccessible in the basement of OISE. This will generally consist of low use items such as non-Canadian case reporters, foreign legislation and most bound journals that are available electronically.
- About 10,000 duplicate volumes (mostly case reporters) will be discarded.

Collections in the New Library:

The Committee agreed that as the library of Canada's leading law school, Bora Laskin must continue to ensure long term access to Canadian, common law and international materials – the materials that make up Canada's legal heritage. Given that commercial enterprises such as Westlaw and Lexis have no mission to preserve legal history or access to legal materials, it is essential that the University of Toronto continues to fulfill that role. As improvements in digital scanning and indexing continue to be made, it is essential to preserve print materials in order to take advantage of the future digital technologies and ensure continued access to these materials. Therefore only duplicate materials are to be discarded.

It is expected that the new library will be able to house most of the current collection with the remainder being stored off-site.