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# Roger Williams University School of Law Library

# Technology Plan

## *Vision Statement*

The mission of the Law Library is to provide effective legal information service to the faculty and students in support of the curriculum and faculty research and to provide legal information to the larger legal community of Rhode Island by providing access to library resources. Technology plays an integral role in the means of providing legal information in today's legal environment and is therefor an integral part of serving the Law Library's mission.

## *Technology Assessment*

The Law Library currently has a fully integrated online library system from Innovative Interfaces, Inc., and a web-based public catalog. The WebCatalog is accessible from 3 dedicated terminals in the Library and from 9 public research workstations, from 47 computer workstations located in three library computer labs, and from all faculty and staff office computers in the Law School. The WebCatalog is also accessible from the Law Library's web page (law.rwu.edu/library/lawlib.html). The library staff access the system through a combination of dedicated Wyse50 terminals and desktop computers.

All desktop computers and workstations in the library are networked using Novell network software. Support for all of the computers in the library except the integrated online system is the responsibility of the University's Information Technology Department.

Students and other patrons have access to 9 public workstations and 47 lab workstations. All of these computers are using Windows95 as the operating system and provide access to the library's CD-ROM resources, the Internet, and E-mail. In addition, the lab workstations provide access for our students to word processing, LEXIS, and WESTLAW.

The professional librarians and support staff all have pentium or pentium equivalent computers in their offices or at their workstations. All of the computers use Windows95 as the operating system. There is also a dedicated OCLC workstation running Windows95. All the computers in use by the support staff and the professional librarians have access to the Internet and e-mail.

Software in use by professional librarians and support staff includes: Corel Suite 8 (including WordPerfect 8), LEXIS, WESTLAW, PageMaker 6.0, OCLC Passport, Calendar Creator Plus, Microtest LanCD Manager, ITC Print Queue Manager, Lotus 123, ProCite, Chameleon E-mail and Internet Access software, Internet Explorer, and Netscape.

## *Goals*

To promote the mission of the Law School and of the Law Library.

To educate our students on the use of information technology in legal research.

To support the faculty in their use of legal information technology.

## *Objectives*

By July 1, 2000

- To develop a comprehensive overall electronic resources training program for students, faculty, and staff.

- To continue to improve the library's web page.

- To develop a comprehensive plan for maintaining and upgrading all public, lab, and staff computers.

- To upgrade the library's online system to an entirely web based platform.

By July 1, 2001

- To implement the library's overall electronic resources training program.

--To implement the comprehensive plan for maintaining and upgrading all public computers.

- To provide students, faculty, and staff access through the web to all library electronic resources, including CD-ROMs and subscription online research services.

By July 1, 2002

- To continue to explore and implement new technologies as their educational use and value are established.

## *Plan Evaluation*

This plan will be reviewed on a continuing basis to make appropriate adjustments based on needs, funding, and the rate of change within the fields of educational, legal, and library technology. The success of the plan will be judged on the ability of the library to meet not only the objectives and time lines set forth, but also on the ability to maintain a flexible approach to the changes inherent in these areas and on the ability to meet the evolving needs and expectations of our students and faculty.

Revised Plan Approved October, 1999