A few months ago, Cornell Law Library celebrated a momentous event in its history, the acquisition of its 700,000th book. A few of you will wonder why we are celebrating books at a time when, according to some people, everything is on the Internet in digital form. You may be surprised to hear that the largest portion of the legal publishing market is still books. Books encompass 43.4 percent of all published legal information in the United States and represent $2.39 billion (2004) in sales revenue. That means that the legal-book business is still huge and accounts for most of the information that the country’s one million lawyers buy.

The large volume of book sales speaks to the fact that even though lawyers have been far ahead of most other disciplines in embracing digital information and have used Lexis and Westlaw online legal research systems since the early 70’s, online resources have not yet replaced print in providing reliability, readability, and long-term availability. The number of digital publications is growing exponentially, but book production is on the upswing as well.

Why are there more books? You can probably tell from your own practice or from reading legal news that there are many new areas of regulation, new laws, new interdisciplinary areas, and, in a global society and economy, new areas of foreign and international law. At Cornell Law School, there has been a broad increase in new programs, including foreign and international law, death penalty, feminist jurisprudence, Asian law (Japanese law, Chinese law, and Korean law), comparative law, and French law. Interest in those new areas has created a rising demand for library materials related to them. Also, demand has increased for interdisciplinary materials in law and economics, law and history, psychology, medicine, and other disciplines.

The Cornell Law Library’s acquisition strategy is to consider the Law School’s resource needs, while constantly evaluating and paring down...
possible selections, canceling print publications when electronic versions are better or cheaper, and buying print and electronic publications in new areas. It is a challenge to keep a balance between the library’s electronic and print volumes. Since our collection is part of a world-class research library—the Cornell University Library system is composed of some twenty libraries on campus—we work very closely with other subject selectors to avoid duplication and create the best possible library that funding will allow. We collaborate intensely with librarians at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR), at the Johnson Graduate School of Management, and at Kroch library for Asian law. We buy only what is specifically useful for law students. Our collection complements the others on campus, and with increasing frequency we buy electronic databases, including fully-searchable databases. One such resource is *The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800–1926*, an impressive PDF collection of more than 21,000 Anglo-American legal works, including treatises, casebooks, local practice manuals, and form books. The Law Library has many of the original versions of these historical books. Researchers can identify useful information online and print, or they can borrow original print copies, if they wish, which can be easier to read than online text.

The Law Library serves as a legal information and research center for the entire campus community through its collections, and particularly through the expertise of its highly specialized staff. Many members of our staff hold both law and library science degrees and belong to the American Bar Association.

**Sustaining a Great Library: a Tradition of Excellence**

Getting to the 700,000th book has been possible through the dedication and hard work of the wonderful law-library staff and as a result of the generosity of the university and innumerable alumni, especially Sheppard A. Guryan ‘67 and his fellow classmates. Alumni like Jack G. Clarke ’52 have created endowments and funds, and they are making gifts in kind, as well as making annual contributions. Without the help of those contributors, scholarship would be impoverished.

The practice of law necessitates the use of the most up-to-date materials and data, as well as historical materials. Unlike publications in many professional fields, few law publications ever become obsolete. The study and practice of law requires access to a wide array of past statutes, cases, legislative histories, treatises, and articles. Those sources provide the basis for understanding current law, and they form the foundation for law being developed by legislative bodies, courts, and administrative agencies. A law library cannot, then, dispose of or warehouse old materials without adversely affecting those who use them. Many law firms turn to academic law libraries to provide the needed materials.

Cornell Law Library has one of the finest and most extensive print collections of any institution, yet in terms of endowments, the library is last among its peer schools. That situation notwithstanding, we hope to continue to build a collection that supports the needs of students and faculty.

**The 700,000th Book Milestone and Faculty Scholarship**

It was not hard to come up with the books to celebrate the 700,000th book milestone. The acquisition of a rare book was given some consideration, but soon it was decided that the best gesture would be to acquire works written by our own law school faculty. Why celebrate faculty scholarship? First, because that is what we are about. The Law Library is totally integrated into the programs of the Law School, is attuned to the research and scholarship needs of faculty and students, and is interacting and responding on a daily basis. Why celebrate book production? Because the published book is what our faculty eventually aspire to produce. Most legal treatises are published in print and cannot be purchased in electronic form.
Members of the Cornell Law faculty wrote all six publications leading up to and marking the milestone celebrated in September 2005. Those publications were selected from among the most recent law-faculty publications. They represent only a tiny portion of law scholarship that exists at the Cornell Law School today.

The volume chosen to be the 700,000th acquisition was Robert S. Summers’s *Form and Function in a Legal System: A General Study*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2005. The book was purchased with funds provided by the Sheppard A. Guryan ’67 Law Library Endowment established in 2000 to support the acquisition of books and related materials on the history of jurisprudence and American legal thought. Mr. Guryan, a member of the Advisory Council, was honored at the Law School celebration. He was presented with a framed bookplate for the occasion.

Professor Summers’s seminal book breaks new ground in legal theory and jurisprudence. It addresses fundamental questions of law and legal systems, including the defining and organizing forms of legal institutions, legal rules, interpretive methodologies, and other legal phenomena, in the context of rule-of-law values and fundamental political values such as democracy, liberty, and justice.

Five selections written by Cornell Law School faculty were chosen to lead up to the purchase of the 700,000th volume. The first was Kevin M. Clermont’s *Principles of Civil Procedure* (Thomson/West, 2005). Professor Clermont is a prolific scholar and his writing is always of the highest caliber. This book provides a fine example of academic writing and is geared to law students’ needs. It expounds on principles of civil procedure and is published as a new series, the Concise Hornbook Series.

The second and third selections were Robert A. Hillman’s *ALI Principles of the Law of Software Contracts, Preliminary Draft No. 2* and Stewart J. Schwab’s *ALI Restatement of Employment Law, Preliminary Draft No. 3*. Both of these works were published by the American Law Institute (ALI) in 2005.

Professor Hillman and Dean Schwab’s publications were written for the ALI. Founded in 1923, the ALI consists of an important group of prominent judges, lawyers, and law teachers. Its purpose is to clarify the law and improve the administration of justice. The works of Professor Hillman and Dean Schwab involved a considerable amount of research and synthesis of the law. Their careful and thorough examinations are likely to move the field of law forward, just as restating the law unavoidably leads toward reform of the law.

The fourth selection was Gary J. Simson’s fourth edition of *Issues and Perspectives in Conflict of Laws: Cases and Materials* published by Carolina Academic Press in 2005. Professor Simson’s work belongs to yet another classic category of legal scholarship, the casebook—the essential tool of learning for law students. The new edition reflects the increasing importance of international conflicts in this country’s courts.

The final selection was David Wippman’s *New Wars, New Laws? Applying the Laws of War in 21st Century Conflicts*, which he coedited with Matthew Evangelista. The work was published by Transnational Publishers in 2005. Vice Provost Wippman’s scholarship extends to

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many areas of international law. In this book, he and Evangelista gathered an insightful group of timely, forward-looking essays, which in light of recent events such as Kosovo, September 11, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, reconsider the application of existing principles of humanitarian law to new situations.

**Looking toward the Future: Enhancing Serendipity and the Library's Raison d'Être**

Traditionally, access to the products of scholarship was primarily through card catalogs and online catalogs. Thanks to new technologies, there are now many more avenues, but searches should be conducted methodically. The library’s role is to make sure that people find the specific publications they are seeking, as well as to bring other relevant materials to the attention of researchers.

More and more, law faculty members are making their published and unpublished work available on the Internet, in order to make the information accessible to a worldwide audience. At Cornell Law School, there are at least three avenues for electronic publishing of legal scholarship:

**Cornell Law School Research Paper Series:**
Published as part of the Legal Scholarship Network (LSN), a division of the Social Science Research Network, or SSRN, this series showcases work produced by our law faculty. LSN keeps online statistics of how many times an article has been viewed or downloaded from its Web site, so authors can see for themselves how many times their papers have been downloaded. The series is part of an online, centralized archive of legal scholarship. Faculty can contribute to LSN by submitting an abstract of their work through the LSN Web site. A full paper can be submitted along with the abstract so that any registered users can download them at no cost from the Web site. Users can receive notification of new papers via e-mail, by subscribing to any of the LSN subject matter “journals.”

**New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO) Legal Scholarship Repository:**
Cornell Law Library is a member of NELLCO, which sponsors a database powered by Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress). The database includes working papers, reports, lecture-series publications, workshop presentations, and other scholarship created by faculty at NELLCO member schools. The following series are available:

- Cornell Law School Berger International Speaker Series
- Cornell Law School Working Papers Series
- Cornell Law School East Asian Law and Culture Conference Series
- Cornell Law School LL.M. Papers Series

**Cornell Law School Faculty Publications Database:**
The database provides an extensive bibliographic compilation of books, contributions to books, casebooks, articles, working papers, Web sites, and miscellaneous publications authored by faculty members. The database is searchable using the faculty
The Book is the Highest Manifestation of Scholarship

Cornell Law School faculty are among the most productive in the country for publishing legal scholarly works that are influential, innovative, and inspiring to students inside and outside of the classroom. Faculty members have written monographs exploring legal doctrine and theory, many of the casebooks that are used at law schools around the country, and articles in numerous publications on every legal topic. Many of the scholarly works cross disciplinary lines, for example, those involving empirical studies, feminist theory, legal history, law and economics, law and psychology, and other disciplines too numerous to mention.

The Law Library is fully committed to the intellectual enterprise and legal excellence of the Law School, and it supports its distinguished faculty. The library collections serve as means to attract and retain faculty and students. The Law Library has an important role in advancing the mission of the Law School and in fostering scholarship. The library sometimes plays a lead role in that effort, by providing the raw materials that will be mined by scholars. The Law Library continually strives to create synergies between collections and scholarship. Here are three examples:

- The Donovan Nuremberg Trials Collection, generously donated by Henry Korn, has led to a partnership between the Cornell Law Library and Hamline University Law School, the publisher of the Journal of Law and Religion. Through the partnership, scholars are invited to write articles for submission to the journal based on materials provided by the Cornell Law Library and digitized on demand. The digital version of The Analysis of the Personality of Adolph Hitler was mentioned on the cover of the New York Times and other media worldwide, and established Cornell as an important repository for information on the Nuremberg trials.

- The Liberia project, advanced by former Cornell Professor Milton Konvitz’s work on the writing of that country’s statutes, has resulted in the Law Library’s becoming a major repository for Liberia’s statutes and court decisions. Through the project, the library is working with the UN and the current government of Liberia in an effort to digitize materials and provide worldwide access to them.

- The ties between Cornell and the International Labor Organization (ILO) have led the Law Library to host the first mirror site for the ILO Web site. Using the Web site, researchers can access the information from anywhere in the world.

The library’s extensive services to students and faculty now include a large instructional role. Research attorneys teach a variety of credit courses on different aspects of legal research. Cornell Law Library is at the cutting edge of a new movement coming from the legal profession. The American Bar Association recognizes the importance of a high level of competency in legal research for new law graduates entering the practice of law. The National Conference of Bar Examiners is currently examining the feasibility of introducing a legal research component of the bar exam. Looking toward the future, the Law Library sees more integration with the endeavors of the Law School, through the library’s print and electronic collections and through its services. For more information about the Cornell Law Library and its collections, visit http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/library.

1. The specific percentages of the formats listed that legal publishing comprises are as follows: books, 42.9 percent; online legal services, 27.3 percent; newsletters and loose-leaf publications, 15.8 percent; and law journals, 2.6 percent. ABA Journal, January 2005, at 61.

Claire M. Germain is the Edward Cornell Law Librarian and Professor of Law at Cornell Law School. She is also the director of the Law School’s dual degree programs in Paris and Berlin.