

Law Library Collections: the Transition from Print to Electronic

Results from the 2023 NELLCO Survey of U.S. Law Librarians

A Report from the NELLCO Print to Electronic Standing Committee

Executive Summary

In 2023, NELLCO members surveyed law librarians to learn more about their experiences as legal publications transition from print to electronic formats. This paper reports on the development of the survey and findings from the responses in order to 1) provide richer context for long-standing concerns raised by information professionals as legal information moves online and 2) demonstrate opportunities for legal information vendors interested in improving their products to better meet the needs of their customers. Responses from the survey demonstrate areas of opportunity to improve the current state of online legal information, especially around the preservation of historical versions of legal materials and continuing access for all patrons that law libraries serve.

Key findings

Survey respondents represent a wide variety of law libraries. Over 250 respondents reported many types of work settings, collection spending, and resource-sharing approaches. Respondents from Academic libraries were slightly outnumbered by respondents from Firm, Government, Court, and Other non-academic libraries, 119 to 139. Most respondents spend more than 60% of their budgets on electronic material. Respondents work at institutions with a range of annual collection budgets, with over 40% spending \$750,000 or less and over 30% spending more than \$1.5 million.

Law librarians depend on each other to meet the needs of their users. The majority of respondents formally or informally rely on other libraries to fulfill information needs, with over 55% in a formal consortium or network of libraries that lends and borrows resources, and over 63% relying on other law libraries in their area. Online legal information vendors have the opportunity to add features that address the need for limited access to single articles or book excerpts—a need that had been met in the past by interlibrary loans (ILL) of print materials.

Law libraries serve a wider range of audiences than most electronic licenses currently contemplate. Over 40 responses mentioned concerns about lending outside their library and supporting patrons who do not have institutional login credentials. As one Academic librarian noted: *"Most of our electronic resources licenses do not allow us to provide access to alumni patrons, or loan materials through ILL. This reduces our ability to serve our alumni patrons and support other members of our community through ILL requests."* It is clear that survey respondents see benefits of the transition to online resources, with over 130 respondents offering comments like, *"We can facilitate greater access to materials with less staff time."* However, for many respondents who would prefer to continue supporting their entire community of users—including ILL borrowers, walk-in users, and others—the transition away from print has had significant drawbacks.

Law librarians of all kinds need to provide historical versions of legal materials, including previous editions of secondary sources. In open-ended responses, this was the most-mentioned

concern—and it is shared among respondents at all types of libraries, across all budget sizes. Over 90 respondents mentioned this concern in one or more comments, with about one half of comments coming from librarians at Academic law libraries, and the other half from librarians at Firm, Court, Government, and other law libraries. The inability to access previous editions of important scholarly treatises, for example, is a barrier to comprehensive legal research, limits the understanding of the evolution of legal thought, and complicates citation and verification as the law develops. In order to support the work of the legal communities they serve, librarians at all types of law libraries want reliable access to snapshot-in-time views of the legal resources they pay for. As one Firm librarian noted: *"Sometimes we need to access a prior version of a resource and it's not available on the electronic platform. It doesn't happen often, but it does happen."*

Solutions

Vendor-oriented solutions. There are no quick, inexpensive technological fixes to all of the problems inherent in the transition from print to electronic legal information. However, law librarians should continue to ask publishers and legal information vendors about the preservation of historical material and talk about the kinds of research needs that are only met by having access to prior editions, superseded content, and other older materials. And vendors should develop technological solutions, or outsource their development, in order to meet the need for reliable, authoritative snapshots of their resources. Two trusted partners that provide archiving services for digital materials are CLOCKSS and Portico. Vendors should also consider developing features and licensing approaches that meet the needs of all the various communities that their library purchasers serve.

Cooperative library-oriented solutions. Cooperative collective management and retention of print materials across institutions, while not directly related to electronic information, is a partial solution in that libraries will ensure the long-term retention of multiple print copies of titles, which in turn can be lent via interlibrary loan. This partial solution will ensure no titles are lost to the historical record in the all-too-common situation libraries find themselves in when they lose physical space: rushed, crisis-driven and often large-scale discarding of print materials.

Legislative solutions. Another potential solution to the problems arising from the transition from print to electronic information, albeit a particularly difficult one, is enacting new legislation. Copyright law could be amended to grant libraries a robust right to preserve historical electronic legal information, whether they purchased or licensed that information originally, as well as explicitly permitting the lending of electronic information via interlibrary loan, regardless of licensing restrictions.

Future research paths

This report provides an initial analysis of the responses from the 2023 survey. Respondents who took the survey were informed that “responses will be kept confidential and results will be reported in the aggregate.” The survey data document a rich set of experiences and opinions from respondents at a wide variety of law libraries. Themes from this analysis invite further exploration around issues of copyright; accessibility; long-term preservation; the role of legal scholarship and the historical legal record; the purpose and sustainability of essential primary and secondary legal resources in the age of Artificial Intelligence; and the mission of law libraries in the 21st century. The Print to Electronic Standing Committee encourages librarians and researchers interested in further work with the survey data as they relate to these or related issues to contact NELLCO for access to a de-identified dataset of answers that includes only non-identifying comments and aggregated library characteristics.

Introduction

The Problem

Law librarians have been concerned about the risks and drawbacks of the transition to electronic legal publication for decades, with concerns about reliable, long-term access to digital materials under discussion since the start of the century.¹ More recently, NELLCO members articulated profound concerns about one of the risks:

*The loss of historical legal scholarship on these platforms will impact legal research forever... **There is no greater threat to the future of understanding the law and how it has progressed over time than the absence of searchable, archived earlier editions** (emphasis added).*

This statement comes from a 2021 memo, *Preservation, Discovery, and Accessibility (PDA): Talking Points of a Critical Nature* ("2021 PDA Memo").² The memo was drafted by a working group that formed during the 2021 Annual NELLCO Symposium. The seven working group members were all academic law librarians, from the law-school libraries of Boston University, Cornell, Harvard, Yale, and University of Connecticut. They focused on three critical areas of concern as publishers and libraries increasingly transition from print to electronic format: preservation, discovery, and accessibility. Later that year, the NELLCO Board affirmed the 2021 PDA memo, and also created an ad hoc committee to determine next steps.

¹For example, the 2003 conference Preserving Legal Information for the Twenty-first Century: Toward a National Agenda, documented in Paul D. Healey, *Georgetown Conference Outlines Preservation Agenda*, AALL Spectrum, June 2003, at 18 ("[Participants] addressed how 'born digital' materials are threatened by... obsolescence as technology changes the way digital information is accessed."). Related conference papers were published in a special issue of *Law Library Journal* in Fall 2004. The Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA) was formed after that conference. See also Caroline Walters, *AALL/CRIV-Sponsored Survey: Vendor Preservation & Historical Research Practices*, The CRIV Sheet, May 2018, at 10, https://www.aallnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CRIV-Vol.-40-No.-3-V5-043018-FINAL_WEB.pdf; Mindy Kent & Caroline Walters, *Gone Forever? Preservation Concerns for Secondary Legal Sources in the Electronic Age and Why it Matters*, The CRIV Sheet, May 2019, at 6, https://www.aallnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/The-CRIV-Sheet-Vol.-41-No.-3-042919_FINAL-WEB.pdf; Mari Cheney & Heather J.E. Simmons, *A Body Without a Soul: Why Print Still Matters in Legal Research*, 42 Legal Reference Servs. Q. 35 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1080/0270319X.2023.2161289> ("[I]f... material is updated online, publishers often discard the superseded versions, making it impossible to do research on what the law said on a particular date in the past").

²AJ Blechner, et al., *Preservation, Discovery, and Accessibility: Talking Points of a Critical Nature* (2021), <https://www.nellco.org/page/pdataalkingpoints> [<https://perma.cc/VK9C-MQ7E>].

2023 Survey Questions & Distribution

In April 2022, the NELLCO Board of Directors approved the ad hoc Print to Electronic Committee's recommendation to create the Print to Electronic Standing Committee (PTESC). The committee was charged, in part, to study the state of digital publishing and to publish materials related to print to electronic format changes. Later that year, the PTESC decided to solicit feedback from the greater law library community in the form of a survey. The PTESC drafted 39 questions intended to capture both quantitative and qualitative data from various perspectives on the transition of legal publication from print to electronic formats.³ In general, survey questions covered:

- **Information about the library and respondent:** type of law library, budget, groups of patrons served, consortium membership, reliance on other area libraries, and spending on electronic resources; plus, how long they worked at their current library and their areas of responsibility.
- **Factors influencing the transition** from print to electronic collection spending.
- **Impact of the transition** in terms of preservation, budgets, and user needs.

The PTESC consulted with the chairs of the American Association of Law Libraries' Government Law Libraries and Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals Special Interest Sections (SIS) and decided to disseminate the survey via AALL SIS and local chapter email lists. Responses were collected in May 2023.

Survey Results

Responses

The survey received 258 complete responses.⁴ Among complete responses, 181 respondents identified the institution where they worked. Fifteen institutions were represented by two or more responses.⁵ The median length of time that respondents had worked at their current institution was ten years.

³ Survey questions are included in the Appendix.

⁴ For the purposes of this report, a "complete" response answered one or more questions about: spending on electronic material; factors in the transition to electronic material; or the impact of the transition to electronic material on preservation, budgets, or user needs.

⁵ A non-required question asked, "What is the full name of your law library and the institution in which it is situated, if applicable? This information will be used to build a picture of the impact within a single library/institution. It will not be used to identify people, libraries, or institutions. All responses will be kept confidential and results will be reported in the aggregate." There were 15 law libraries with more than one complete response.

Types of Libraries

Respondents were fairly evenly split between Academic and Non-academic law libraries. Respondents from Academic libraries were slightly outnumbered by respondents from Firm, Government, Court, and other Non-academic libraries, 119 to 139. In our analysis, library types were clustered into groups of related types. “Other” responses were categorized as “Gov/Ct” if the respondent specified they were from federal courts, federal agencies, or public county law libraries.⁶ The remaining respondents from “Other” libraries worked at membership law libraries and special law libraries; there was also one legal publisher.

<i>Library Group</i>	<i>Library Type (respondent answer)</i>	Count	Percent
Academic	Academic law library at a private law school	62	24.0%
Academic	Academic law library at a private, independent law school	2	0.8%
Academic	Academic law library at a public law school	55	21.3%
Academic Total		119	46.1%
Firm	Firm/corporate law library	64	24.8%
Firm Total		64	24.8%
Gov/Ct	Court law library	27	10.5%
Gov/Ct	Government law library	26	10.1%
Gov/Ct	Other	6	2.3%
Gov/Ct	Public law library	9	3.5%
Gov/Ct Total		68	26.4%
Other	Other	7	2.7%
Other Total		7	2.7%
Grand Total		258	100.0%

⁶ For example, one respondent said: “We are a county law library open to the public - not sure if you would call that public, government, or court!” Their library was categorized as “Gov/Ct.”

Formal Interlibrary Lending

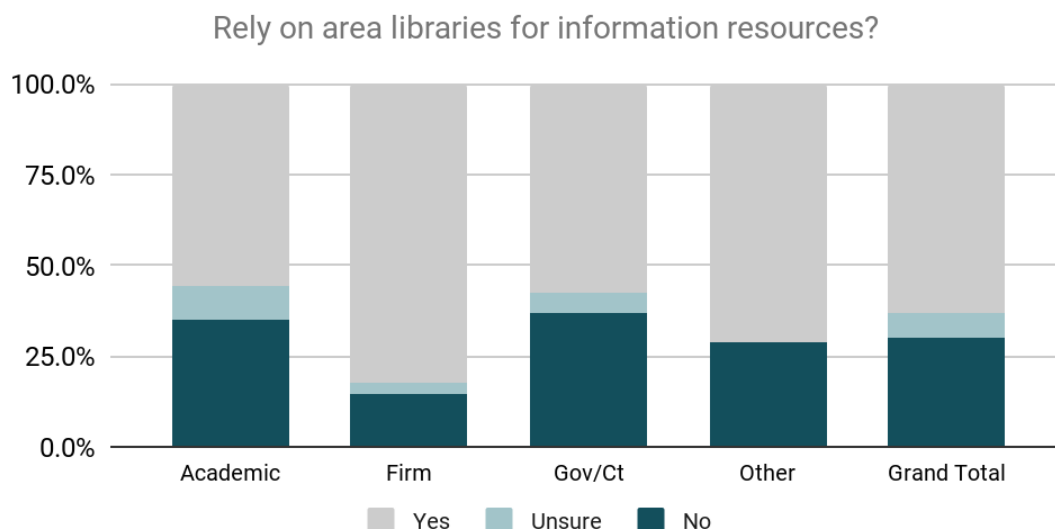
Over 55% of complete responses were from librarians in a formal consortium or network of libraries that lends and borrows resources.⁷

Library Group	No		Unsure		Yes	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Academic	22	8.2%	7	2.60%	94	34.94%
Firm	50	18.6%	3	1.12%	16	5.95%
Gov/Ct	30	11.2%	6	2.23%	33	12.27%
Other	4	1.5%			4	1.49%
Grand Total	106	39%	16	5.95%	147	54.65%

⁷ Answers were made in response to this question: "Is your library part of a formal library consortium/network through which your library lends and/or borrows information resources?"

Reliance on Other Libraries

Most respondents—over 63%—rely on other libraries in their area for information resources.⁸ Over 160 respondents said they rely on other libraries. Respondents who work at Firm libraries had the highest proportion of reliance, with over 82% of Firm respondents saying they rely on other law libraries.



The most common type of library that respondents rely on is Academic, with 131 respondents saying they rely on Academic libraries in their area. And it's not just Academic libraries borrowing from each other: of the 131 respondents that rely on area Academic libraries, over half—75 of them—were respondents from Non-academic libraries. Among the respondents who said they rely on others, all types of libraries were represented. Academic law library respondents rely on other Academic law libraries, but they also rely on Public, Government, and Court libraries. Non-academic law libraries rely on each other as well. But the most common type of library that all “Yes” respondents said they rely on was Academic.

Counts Lender (relied on)	Borrower				
	Academic	Firm	Gov/Ct	Other	Grand Total
Academic	55	40	32	3	130
Public	29	30	18	4	81
Government	28	25	25	3	81
Court	26	16	19	1	62
Firm/corporate	4	28	7	2	41

Electronic Spending

Respondents work at institutions where much of the collection spending is for electronic material. Over 85% of complete responses answered a question about collection spending on electronic materials. Of those respondents, over 83% said they work in organizations where more than 40% of their recent collection spending is for online materials; over 54% of them said the number was over 60%.⁹

<i>Percent electronic</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
81-99%	60	27.1%
61-80%	61	27.6%
41-60%	62	28.1%
21-40%	24	10.9%
1-20%	13	5.9%
100%	1	0.5%
Grand Total	221	100%

Respondents' reports of collection spending and budgets are in alignment with other resources that document unsustainable increases in the price of print, such as the analyses in recent editions of the *Legal Information Buyers Guide* showing that price increases for print from LexisNexis/Matthew Bender and Thomson/West exceed the Consumer Price Index—by five and ten times, respectively.¹⁰

Collection Budgets

Respondents work at institutions with a wide range of collection budgets. About two thirds of respondents answered the question about their collection budget. Slightly more than half of them—111 respondents—work at a place where their collection budget is \$750,000 or more. But 84 respondents work at organizations with a smaller budget, and 61 of them work at an institution with a collection budget of \$500,000 or less.

<i>Budget group</i>	<i>Collection_budget</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Large	\$1,500,001 - \$2,000,000	23	12%
Large	Above \$2,000,001	40	21%
<i>Large Total</i>		63	32%

⁹ Answers were made in response to this question: "To the best of your knowledge, approximately what percent of resources acquired/renewed in the last fiscal year were in electronic formats?" Respondents from the same institution did not always have the same answer for this question. Totals are reported based on all responses.

¹⁰ Kendall Svengalis, *Legal Information Buyer's Guide and Reference Manual 23-4* (2020).

Medium	\$1,000,001 - \$1,500,000	27	14%
Medium	\$750,001 - \$1,000,000	21	11%
<i>Medium Total</i>		48	25%
Small	\$1 - \$250,000	29	15%
Small	\$250,001 - \$500,000	32	16.41%
Small	\$500,001 - \$750,000	23	11.79%
<i>Small Total</i>		84	43.08%
Grand Total		195	100.00%

Factors in the Transition to Electronic

Respondents rated the level of influence that several factors had in their library's move to acquire resources in electronic format over the last decade, from "not influential at all" to "extremely influential."¹¹ In our analysis, the rankings were assigned corresponding values from one to five.

The top two factors influencing the survey respondents' transition to acquiring new materials in electronic format were cost and availability.

1. **The cost of purchasing in both electronic and print formats** was the most influential factor. This fact implies that most respondents would still prefer to get some print, at least in some contexts, if cost were not a consideration.
2. **The lack of choice to purchase print** because the resource is now exclusively available in electronic format was the second most influential factor.

Factor	Type of Library				Budget				Overall
	Academic	Firm	Gov/Ct	Other	Unsure	Small	Medium	Large	
Cost for both formats	4.1	4.4	4.0	3.3	4.2	4.4	4.0	3.9	4.1
Exclusively available online	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.0
Multiple users at once	3.7	4.2	3.6	3.6	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.8

¹¹ Answers were made in response to this question: "Please indicate the extent to which each of these factors influenced your law library's transition from print to electronic resources over the last ten years."

COVID-19	3.5	4.2	3.0	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.6
User preference	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.6
Searchability	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.5
Lower budget	3.3	3.0	3.5	1.0	3.6	3.7	3.1	2.6	3.2
Fewer staff	2.6	2.0	2.7	2.0	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.4
Smaller space	2.3	4.2	2.4	2.2	3.3	2.5	2.2	3.4	2.8
Reallocation of space	2.3	3.4	2.2	1.8	2.9	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.6

Notable Variations in Factors

Firm library respondents ranked a few factors as more impactful than respondents from other types of libraries, which is consistent with Firm library experiences documented in recent law library literature:¹²

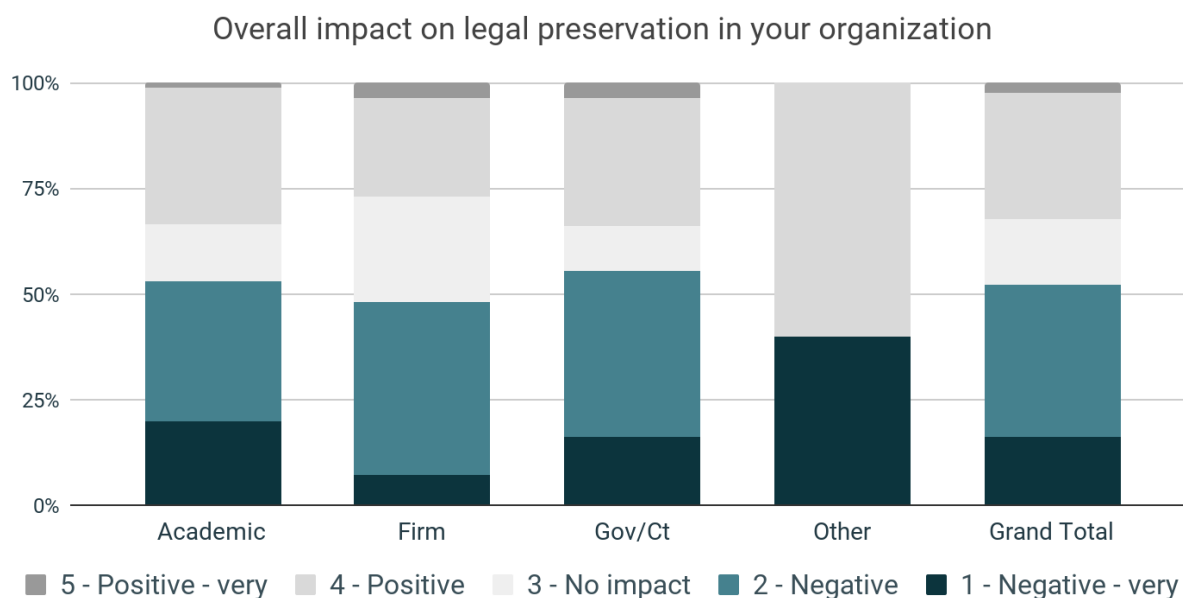
- **Smaller space.** For Firm librarians, the size of the library was far more influential a factor in their library's move to acquiring resources in electronic format exclusively. Firm librarians rated this factor as either extremely or very influential, whereas Academic and Government respondents cited this factor on average as a slight to moderate influence.
- **Multi-user access and COVID-19.** Firm librarian respondents also ranked these two factors more highly than others. Open-ended comments expanded on these ratings with notes like this one: *"In addition to financial factors, our firm has been expanding rapidly and adding new offices. It is not feasible or practical to pay for/ maintain print collections that are only accessible in one physical location."*

¹² For example, according to John J. DiGilio in his article, *The Books Have Left the Building* :

When I took on my current [law firm library] role nearly five years ago, I was charged with elevating the ongoing changes in the firm's library department to a whole new level. Print reduction was already one of the asks, but when the pandemic shutdowns hit two months into my tenure, the initiative was given new prominence. Let's be honest, if there was ever a perfect opportunity to radically reduce the book collection, it was during this time when its use had been abandoned in favor of online and digital alternatives. Over the course of the next two years, we were able to reduce our print holdings by over 90 percent.

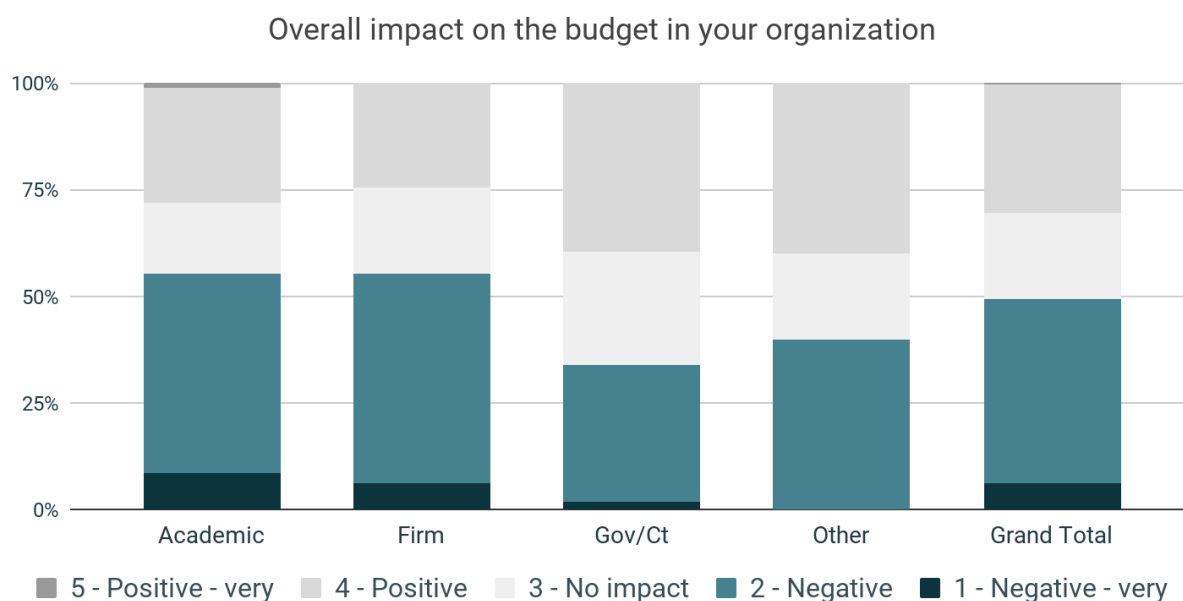
Overall Ratings on the Impact of the Transition to Electronic

Preservation. Over half of the 255 respondents who selected a ranking said the transition to electronic formats has had a negative or very negative impact on preservation.¹³



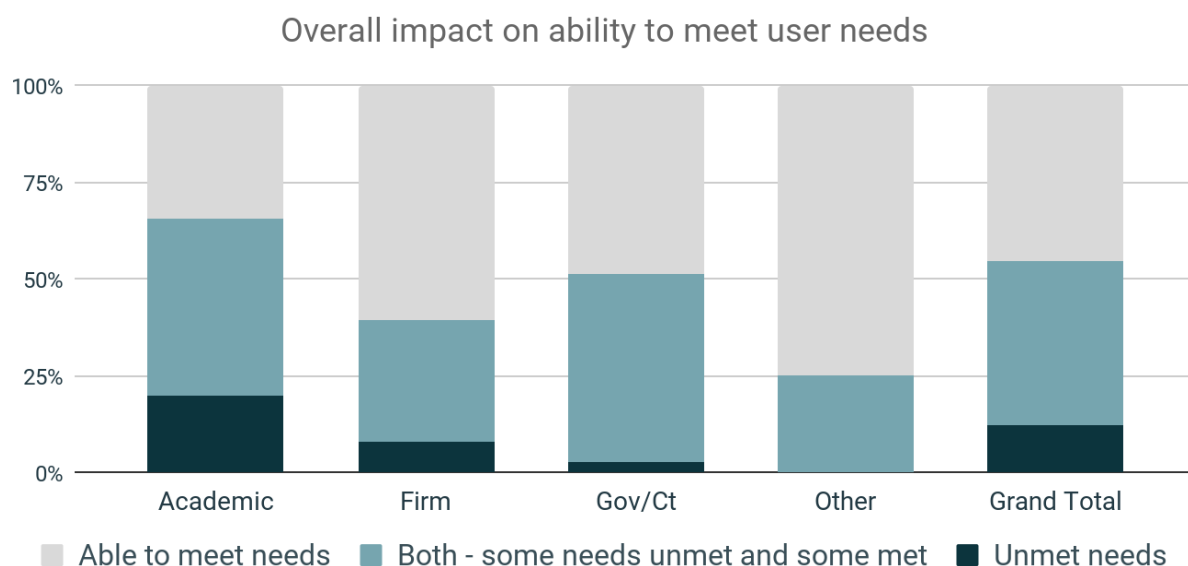
¹³ Answers were made in response to this question: “How would you rate the overall impact of the transition to electronic formats for legal information resources on legal preservation (i.e., the persistent availability of content either on a platform or an archive that is retrievable by subscribers) within your organization, including its users?”

Budgets. Almost 50% of the 199 respondents who selected a ranking said the budget impact has been Negative or Very Negative. However, slightly more than half of respondents are neutral to positive about the impact of the transition to electronic formats on their library budgets.¹⁴



¹⁴Answers were made in response to this question: "How would you rate the overall impact of the transition to electronic formats for legal information resources on your organization's budget?"

User needs. Almost 75% of the 184 respondents who answered questions about the impact of the transition to electronic resources on their organization’s ability to meet user needs (currently or in the future) said that they were able to meet at least some user needs. However, most respondents also said that some user needs are or will be unmet because of the transition to electronic resources.¹⁵ Respondents from Academic libraries had the highest proportion of responses indicating some needs would be unmet.



¹⁵ Two questions in the survey asked about user needs. The first asked, “Are there any additional user needs that your organization can no longer meet, or you anticipate not being able to meet in the future, due to the transition from print to electronic resources?” The second asked, “Are there any user needs that your organization can now meet or anticipate being able to meet in the future due to the transition from print to electronic resources?”

Comments on the Impact of the Transition to Electronic Library Collections

Over 175 respondents provided open-ended comments about the transition to electronic formats. There were several separate questions that invited open-ended comments: one regarding the factors that influenced the transition to electronic collections, plus three separate sets of questions about the impact on preservation, budgets, and user needs. However, responses demonstrate that many of these issues are related. Comments were therefore analyzed together, and coded in order to supplement analysis and quantify the most common themes.¹⁶

Challenges of the transition

1. Loss of access to important historical materials

Respondents frequently brought up concerns about the loss of access to older versions of important secondary sources and other historical materials, with 91 respondents mentioning the concern in one or more comments. When new editions of some legal publications are released, previous versions may no longer be available electronically, which can hinder research that requires historical context. The inability to access previous editions of important scholarly treatises, for example, is a barrier to comprehensive legal research, limits the understanding of the evolution of legal thought, and complicates citation and verification as the law develops. Recent scholarship demonstrates that courts and scholars continue to use and cite important treatises in opinions, briefs, and articles.¹⁷ Although some might assume this is a concern that's limited to Academic libraries, almost half of the comments where this concern was mentioned were from respondents in Non-academic libraries. One Firm librarian commented, for example:

It's harder now to pull citations to older editions of books/treatises when all that's online is the current edition. And once I had an online book that hadn't updated a

¹⁶ Codes were generated in an iterative process. One report author used a campus-approved AI tool (Microsoft CoPilot) to generate concepts for codes by asking the tool to summarize the top five issues in the text of all open-ended comments, and another report author generated concepts as they read comments. See Justin Wedeking, "Text as Data" in *Law and Courts: Data Coding, Language Clarity, and Data Sharing*, in *Research Handbook on Law and Courts* 443 (Susan M. Sterett & Lee D. Walker eds., 2019), <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788113205.00042>; Moin Syed & Sarah C. Nelson, *Guidelines for Establishing Reliability When Coding Narrative Data*, in 3 *Emerging Adulthood* 375 (2015), <https://doi.org/10.1177/2167696815587648>.

¹⁷ See Dana Neacsu & Paul D. Callister, *The Persistent Treatise*, 116 *Law Library J.* 257 (2024), https://irlaw.umkc.edu/faculty_works/742.

certain chapter yet in the new edition so that chapter just wasn't available on the web version, I had to pull it from an older print copy.

2. Access for the traditional extended law library community, including ILL

The shift to electronic resources has also created disparities in access for different groups of patrons. Respondents from Academic libraries noted that licensing agreements often restrict access to legal materials to current students and faculty, leaving the general public, alumni, and other patrons without the resources they were previously able to use in print. A respondent who works in a court library lamented the fact that publisher access restrictions on electronic titles often preclude access by lawyer patrons, since they cannot be checked out the same way as print titles.

3. Preference for print format

Over 30 respondents mentioned a preference for print in their open-ended comments, with statements like, "...[M]any judges still prefer print." and *"Electronic resources are wonderful if you know how to use them and the technologies they utilize, but many of our patrons are not tech savvy or do not have access to the proper technology without us."*

Benefits of the transition

Respondents mentioned a variety of advantages that the transition to electronic has had for their libraries and patrons in their open-ended comments.

1. Convenience and timeliness of online access

Over 120 respondents mentioned the benefits of immediate access regardless of geography, with over 100 responses mentioning some kind of user need that is or will be met by the transition to electronic publications. However, immediate online access regardless of location also came up in open-ended comments about the positive aspects of the transition on preservation. Overall, comments from respondents show a clear-eyed awareness of the benefits of the transition to electronic formats.

2. Less staff time spent on processing and filing print

Over thirty respondents mentioned staff time, with comments like, *"Staff re-allocated from print-related tasks (mail, check-in, filing, shelving, claiming, end-processing, etc.) to new and more mission-critical and more engaging activities."* Of the open-ended comments that mentioned staff time, over 20 included explanations about how the transition had a positive impact on the budget, with statements like, *"We no longer*

employ a filing service. I spend less time processing invoices. I spend less time looking for missing books."

3. Preference for online format

In open ended comments, 26 respondents mentioned that print is in some way a less used or less useful format, with comments like, *"Newer attorneys come in prepared to use all electronic resources and prefer them."* and *"Cannot justify continuing to purchase expensive print materials that merely collect dust on the shelves."*

Conclusion

This report demonstrates, among other things, that all law libraries—whether they are Academic, Firm, Court or Government subtypes—have largely transitioned to acquiring new materials in electronic format. At the same time, survey respondents have major concerns about the way electronic licenses limit their ability to meet the needs of *all* of their patrons, as well as a lack of long-term and reliable access to electronic historical legal materials.

This report also demonstrates that law libraries of all types still rely on each other to fully meet the research needs of their patrons. However, continued reliance on interlibrary loan is more complicated in a digital-only environment: ILL is almost always limited to print materials due to licensing restrictions; more and more publishers are moving to publishing solely in electronic format; and libraries increasingly cannot buy materials in both print and electronic formats.

Even though there appears to be no quick fix to the various problems related to the shift of the publication of legal information from print to electronic format, there are indeed a variety of potential solutions available: some that are more vendor/publisher-focused; some that require cooperation among libraries; some that involve the passage of new laws; and there are no doubt others that the authors of this paper have yet to contemplate.

One thing that will not move the legal information community in the right direction with respect to this issue is inaction. Instead, action can involve:

- vendors developing better publication models, technologies, and licensing terms to promote long-term and systematic preservation;
- librarians continuing to pressure vendors and advocate for their communities;
- cooperation among libraries in digital preservation and long-term print retention; and
- the sustained lobbying of the United States Congress to update copyright law to reflect our digital reality, while still promoting the values of section 108 of the

Copyright Act that carve out the rights of libraries related to preservation and interlibrary loan.

Lastly, we encourage the legal information community to use the data gathered in this report to create new scholarship to further analyze the problems related to the transition of legal publications from print to electronic format, as well as to propose new solutions for the various stakeholders in this community. While the creators of this survey attempted to gather comprehensive data from a variety of law libraries, survey results show only a snapshot in time. Therefore, we also encourage the development of new surveys and additional research, so our community has an accurate picture of practices and can improve strategies for continuing to serve the whole legal research community and work towards preserving the historical record of legal information for researchers of the future.

Appendix

Survey Questions

Number	Question
1	Select the option that best describes the law library at which you currently work.
2	What type of court does your law library support? (select all that apply)
3	In general, what types of patrons does your law library serve? (select all that apply)
4	In general, what types of patrons does your library serve? (select all that apply)
5	In general, what types of patrons does your library serve? (select all that apply)
6	In general, what types of patrons does your library serve? (select all that apply)
7	Is your library part of a formal library consortium/network through which your library lends and/or borrows information resources?
8	Are there other law libraries in your geographic area on which you and/or your colleagues rely for information resources (e.g., a county law library)?
9	On what type(s) of law libraries in your geographic area do you and/or your colleagues rely for information resources? (select all that apply)
10	To the best of your knowledge, what is the size of your law library's information/collection budget?
11	What is the full name of your law library and the institution in which it is situated, if applicable? This information be used to build a picture of the impact within a single library/institution. It will not be used to identify people, libraries, or institutions. All responses will be kept confidential and results will be reported in the aggregate.
12	Approximately how many years have you worked in your current law library (whole number please)?
13	In which department/area of the law library do your responsibilities lie? (select all that apply)
14	To the best of your knowledge, approximately what percent of resources acquired/renewed in the last fiscal year were in electronic formats?
15	Please indicate the extent to which each of these factors influenced your law library's transition from print to electronic resources over the last ten years.
16	Please indicate the extent to which each of these law library-related factors influenced your law library's transition from print to electronic resources over the last ten years.
17	What other factors, if any, have influenced your law library's transition from print to electronic resources over the last five years?

18	How would you rate the overall impact of the transition to electronic formats for legal information resources on legal preservation (i.e., the persistent availability of content either on a platform or an archive that is retrievable by subscribers) within your organization, including its users?
19	You indicated that the transition to electronic formats for legal information positively impacted legal preservation for your organization, including its users. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this impact.
20	Please describe the ways in which your organization, including its users, has seen a positive impact on legal preservation by the transition to electronic formats.
21	Has your organization, including its users, also seen a negative impact in the area of legal preservation due to the transition to electronic formats?
22	In what ways has your organization, including its users, also seen a negative impact on legal preservation due to the transition to electronic formats?
23	You indicated that the transition to electronic formats for legal information negatively impacted legal preservation for your organization, including its users. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this impact.
24	Please describe the ways in which your organization, including its users, has seen a negative impact on legal preservation by the transition to electronic formats.
25	Has your organization, including its users, also seen a positive impact in the area of legal preservation due to the transition to electronic formats?
26	In what ways has your organization, including its users, also seen a positive impact on legal preservation due to the transition to electronic formats?
27	How would you rate the overall impact of the transition to electronic formats for legal information resources on your organization's budget?
28	You indicated that the transition to electronic formats for legal information positively impacted your organization's budget. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this impact.
29	Please describe the ways in which your organization's budget has been positively impacted by the transition to electronic formats.
30	Has your organization also seen a negative impact on its budget due to the transition to electronic formats?
31	In what ways has your organization also seen a negative impact on its budget due to the transition to electronic formats?
32	You indicated that the transition to electronic formats for legal information negatively impacted your organization's budget. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this impact.
33	Please describe the ways in which your organization has seen a negative impact on its budget by the transition to electronic formats.
34	Has your organization also seen a positive impact on its budget due to the transition to electronic formats?
35	In what ways has your organization also seen a positive impact on its budget due to the transition to electronic formats?
36	Are there any additional user needs that your organization can no longer meet, or you anticipate

	not being able to meet in the future, due to the transition from print to electronic resources?
37	Please describe what user needs your organization can no longer meet or anticipate not being able to meet in the future due to the transition from print to electronic resources.
38	Are there any user needs that your organization can now meet or anticipate being able to meet in the future due to the transition from print to electronic resources?
39	Please describe how your organization is better able to meet user needs currently, or in the future, because of the transition from print to electronic resources.