

Osgoode Hall Law School Library

Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026



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Introduction

The four-year strategic plan 2022 – 2026 outlines the road map for the Osgoode Law Library in the coming years. The plan has reviewed the Law Library’s mission statement and vision and goals.

The plan focuses on the following 4 themes related to library services, resources, and its users:

- 1. Digitizing and promoting faculty research.**
- 2. Build a comprehensive and accessible collection of Canadian legal resources enhanced by an international, social justice and interdisciplinary focus supporting faculty and student research and contributing to the development of the next-generation of innovative lawyers.**
- 3. Create an integrated virtual and physical library space that is accessible and welcoming to all.**
- 4. Design library services to meet and anticipate the evolving needs of faculty and students.**

Some of the themes align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals¹ because of the global functions of libraries.

Mission Statement

The Law Library’s mission is to support intensive research and innovative teaching by collecting, organizing, preserving, and disseminating legal scholarship; by providing effective service and instruction; and by using electronic information systems to provide access to new resources and services.

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

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The plan envisions the following themes:

1. Digitizing and promoting faculty research.

The Law Library will promote Open Access to faculty scholarship and Law School initiatives and plans to digitize selected rare library resources, especially faculty publications, reports, and research. Once digitized, these resources will reach a global audience through the institutional repository.

This theme aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal number 11, which highlights the role of libraries in the preservation of documents:

“Libraries have an essential role in safeguarding and preserving invaluable documentary heritage, in any form, for future generations.”

Aligning with Osgoode's priority in exploring local and global law, the Law Library will work with the Associate Dean, Research and Institutional Relations, and other stakeholders to implement strategies that enhance and connect the profile of Osgoode scholarship to global research activities.

This will be achieved through continued Faculty outreach to contribute scholarship in the institutional repository and by making connections to related scholars and researchers. In addition, information awareness sessions will be facilitated through the office of the Associate Dean, Research and Institutional Relations, Directors of Research Centres, Osgoode Law Journals and other stakeholders.

To offset the substantial costs of digitization initiatives, the Law Library will pursue funding and grant opportunities from within the University and from external organizations for these projects.

Through Instructional and Liaison Services, professional librarians will assist faculty with the compilation of scholarly impact reports, the maintenance of research profiles, and will facilitate connections to research databases through ORCID, HeinOnline, Google Scholar, and Scopus, among others. Professional librarians will also promote faculty research through library instructional materials and other teaching activities.

2. Build a comprehensive and accessible collection of Canadian legal resources enhanced by an international, social justice and interdisciplinary focus supporting faculty and student research and contributing to the development of the next-generation of innovative lawyers.

The Law Library collection has a long-standing reputation as one of the most extensive and largest libraries in the Commonwealth recognized internationally for the quality and size of its Canadian legal monographs collection. The library is also a leader for providing access to both its physical and electronic collections through the use of enhanced and innovative metadata that improves the discoverability of our resources focused on the specialized needs of our diverse user community. This theme builds on this reputation by further developing this comprehensive Canadian law collection and supporting faculty teaching and research and student learning. We will enrich this collection through an inclusive and social justice lens and will continue to improve the foreign and international scope which will attract legal scholars from all over the world.

The historical reputation of the Balfour Halévy Special and Rare Books Collection will be maintained and expanded by collecting and preserving unique and relevant materials in this area. To build awareness of this collection, the Law Library will curate digital and physical exhibits of newly acquired titles and thematically promote relevant resources found within the collection through current awareness tools such as the Library blog and research guides.

We will maintain a strong collaboration with the York University Libraries Content Development and Analysis Department (CDA) to assist with the development of an interdisciplinary collection that supports teaching and research across the University community.

3. Create an integrated virtual and physical library space that is accessible and welcoming to all.

The Law Library space is an important environment for our users and a place for collaboration and learning providing opportunities to engage with information resources and with each other. Our aim is to provide safe and welcoming physical and virtual spaces that promote collaboration, academic learning, research, teaching and well-being for Osgoode faculty and students as well as the broader York University community.

The physical library space and equipment will be continuously evaluated to ensure that library users are working in a comfortable and enabling environment. We will explore the use of new technological tools, such as electronic white boards, collaboration platforms and other devices that will enhance and improve the space. The Law Library virtual space will be updated to promote academic learning, research and teaching in an online environment.

In conjunction with the Law School, the library's website will be updated to incorporate accessibility compliance as well as to better reflect our services and resources and engage our users. We will also work with database and research service providers to ensure that they are compliant with accessibility guidelines.

4. Design library services to meet and anticipate the evolving needs of faculty and students.

The Law Library will continue to monitor the changing needs of its users by introducing and exploring new and emerging models of instructional methodologies. The past two years have provided many lessons and revealed a variety of options to consider when providing library instruction. The Law Library must redesign its services accordingly to support its users. This approach will support different areas of the curriculum and research with a new vision for lawyering and professional development.

We will promote access to our excellent collection through teaching and reference services in various formats (including email, phone, virtual and in-person reference services, for individual consultations and group learning) to meet the diverse needs of our users. We will equip our students with the most comprehensive and current research skills to support their academic learning and professional practice.

Digital access to library resources will be facilitated through videos to encourage lifelong learning and engage library users. Librarians will teach legal research skills through various channels including library workshops, in-class library sessions, and specially-organized library research seminars.

This theme aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 4 focusing on “Quality Education”:

“Libraries support literacy programmes... Libraries support researchers to reuse research and data to create new knowledge.”