



Jenkins Law Library

"I would recommend the Scannx Book ScanCenter to libraries similar to ours. However, I would highly recommend that they get the document feeder."

– Ida Weingram assistant director for Business Services

About Jenkins Law Library

The first and oldest law library in the United States, the Jenkins Law Library began in a small room in Philadelphia's famous Independence Hall in 1802. Founded by a group of lawyers to provide legal information for the city's growing law community, it has grown and matured into a non-profit institution that serves as home to a wealth of legal information, databases, research services and continuing education classes. Now located at 9th and Chestnut Street in Philadelphia's Center City, Jenkins boasts a staff of 12 librarians and 12 support staff dedicated to the information needs of its more than 7,000 members.

In 2005, the library completed a \$1.2 million renovation, aimed at keeping up with changing times and better meeting the needs of 21st century legal research. Wireless zones were added throughout the library as well as a new conference center that can accommodate up to 50 people.

Scannx Book ScanCenter: New Technology for New Rules

When a postcard promoting the Book ScanCenter crossed the desk of one of Jenkins Library's executive directors, it immediately caught her eye. "We have an office center where people can make copies and buy supplies," said Ida Weingram, assistant director for Business Services, "but no scanner to help patrons prepare documents for electronic filing".



CASE STUDY

E-filing is on the rise at every level of the court system. The new rules intend to make it quicker and easier for attorneys to file, without needing to physically go to the courthouse. Electronic court records are also meant to make files more accessible for all involved. And with OCR technologies, lawyers and judges can easily find relevant passages, precedents and citations. Finally, electronic documents are a huge space saver for courthouses and law firms alike. The problem? “We work with the public and not everybody has the capability for e-mail and scanning,” said Weingram.

Interested in how the Book ScanCenter could help meet their patrons’ growing need to digitize documents, Weingram and her colleagues did a site visit at the University of Pennsylvania, where they got a hands-on demonstration that convinced them to immediately order their own.

Mission Accomplished (With One Regret)

In its first two months of service, the Scannx Book ScanCenter saw steady use, but only one book was scanned. It is mainly being used to scan lengthy briefs and legal forms to flash drive or e-mail. Overall, the response has been positive.

Weingram does have one regret, though. “We only got the flatbed scanner, but in hindsight we should have gotten the document feeder too,” she said. “People are scanning in briefs to submit to court, but they are doing the pages one by one.” Still people are turning to it instead of making paper copies, even though the copy machine has a document feeder.

Eventually, Weingram sees this new scanning technology replacing copy machines, especially in libraries like Jenkins that serve an ever more digital legal community. Already, she said, “copying is very minimal for us. But if someone needs a paper copy, that’s what we’re here for.”