



University of Virginia Law School Library

“For students, it is a one-stop shop. They come in, hit a couple buttons and start scanning. There’s no need for training; no hand holding. It takes care of itself. And the price? Holy mackerel! It’s crazy good.”

– Michael Klepper, communications librarian

UVA Law School Chooses Scannx for Self-Service Scanning

Frustration drove the staff at the University of Virginia Law Library to take a closer look at the Scannx Book ScanCenter. Communications Librarian Michael Klepper and his colleagues saw a Scannx demonstration at a conference, but didn’t think it was something they needed. After all, the library had a copier-printer with scanning capabilities, and they had just acquired a brand new high-end overhead-style scanner for Special Collections.

But after a few months, it became clear that neither of those scanning solutions were what they really needed – a no-fuss, self-service scanning option for their patrons. The overhead scanner, said Klepper, “was doing a great job for books, but it wasn’t user-friendly.” And, with its very expensive price tag, “we were a little leery of letting students loose on it.”

As for the scanner-copier-printer, he said, “it’s one of the big hummer machines that the students can use for copying anything. But the scanning process was a freaking nightmare, and we couldn’t get the students used to it. We kept making charts and step-by-step processes and putting them on the wall. With this book size, you have to reduce by 25 percent to get the whole page, and so on. It was turning into a real headache.”



CASE STUDY

Klepper went to the Scannx website to learn more about the Book ScanCenter, and was impressed by the simplicity of the system and its affordable price.

Shortly thereafter, the UV Law Library installed two Scannx Book ScanCenter Elites, but by the time they were installed, the semester was in full swing. “We were going to do training sessions, but we were pretty far behind the curve in getting them used to the system,” said Klepper. “I was a little worried about that, but we decided to just put it out there and see what happens. And what happened was, bingo, they were off and running, with no problems whatsoever.”

Students Embrace Scannx Book ScanCenter

The Law Library installed one Book ScanCenter downstairs in the reserve room, where required reading for classes is made available on a non-circulating basis. The second was installed upstairs in a lounge area near the study rooms. “We assumed that the one downstairs would get the most use,” said Klepper. “It turns out, both of them are getting used equally,” as students discover they can use the scanners to exchange class notes with their classmates and study groups.

Recently, Klepper said, he looked at the use logs for both Book ScanCenters, and was shocked to discover how much students have been using them. “We have scanned over 50,000 documents since October – that’s 10,000 copies a month,” he said.

Those numbers may go up. Traditionally, Westlaw and Lexis provided printers free of charge for patrons using those services. But Westlaw recently removed their printer from the library as part of a going-green initiative. If that change causes a spike in use on the Book ScanCenter kiosks, Klepper said, the school may need to get more Scannx units to prevent bottlenecks.

In the meantime, he’s just pleased that, with all that scanning, the library staff has not had to answer questions or get involved in the scanning process.



CASE STUDY

“The moral of the story is, we no longer have to do anything,” said Klepper. “We no longer have to sit over the machine and babysit a scanner. It’s 100 percent students coming in and doing their own scanning.”

About University of Virginia Law School

Founded by Thomas Jefferson in 1819, the University of Virginia School of Law is consistently ranked among the top law schools in the nation. Located in Charlottesville, VA, just two hours southwest of Washington, D.C., the Law School has an enrollment of just over 1,000 students.

The Arthur J. Morris Law Library maintains an expansive collection to support the curriculum and research needs of the Law School’s students and faculty, including about 1 million volumes; government materials for both the United States and Virginia; rare historical documents; specialized materials on U.S. tax law; oceans law and policy; international and foreign law; and special collections that include rare, historical and unique materials with an emphasis on Anglo-American Law.