

If money were no object, what are the two top features you would seek in your new/remodeled dream library?

The following responses are available on AALLNET only. For the responses published in the May 2009 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, please see the issue in its entirety.

"If money were no object, I would:

1. build a beautiful rare book room with display space and work space so that we could make the most of our excellent rare book collection; and
2. put a coffee shop in the library with lots of inviting space for students, staff, and faculty to mingle."

- **Ann Puckett**, professor of law and director of the library at University of Georgia Alexander Campbell King Law Library in Athens

"My answer to your 'If money were no object' question is influenced by a ten-year absence from the world of law libraries and is probably more apropos of law firm libraries. My dream library would be in a more prominent location in the firm. Libraries and librarians have lost a vital aspect of their mission—contact with their clients. Many large firms have developed great virtual research support teams but the library has lost its visibility as the law firm information center. Even as libraries shrink in size, we see more and more libraries in remote locations within an office or, worse yet, off-site entirely. I think a critical aspect of good client relations and customer support is lost when you never see your client."

- **Meg Chicco**, assistant librarian at Dechert LLP in Princeton, New Jersey

"The two top items my library would have:

1. A room at least 25 feet by 25 feet for the technical services operations. This would allow the creation of separate office space, carrels, counter space, and cabinets for this vital part of the library. This space would be adjacent to the loading dock, and preferably one that only the law library uses.
2. Each office area, for all library staff personnel, would have phone/data/computer jacks on each wall.

And if could offer a third item, the main floor would have a coffee/tea/sandwich cart available when the law library was open."

- **Grace Mills**, law library director and associate professor of law at Hamline University School of Law in Saint Paul, Minnesota

"Here is our take on dream features. Money is definitely an object, but we think we are getting our dream features in our new building set to open next year:

1. The support staff will have workstations in one general area so as acquisitions and access staffing needs evolve and merge, we can be flexible in adjusting support staff job descriptions without having to consider location of their workstations.
2. A one-credit advanced legal research course is required of all Marquette law students for graduation. We hire law librarians whom we predict will be successful teachers of legal research for courses designed for problem solving in cost-effective and practical means based on the librarians' prior experience as teachers, law clerks, or practitioners. Thus we have designed librarian offices and teaching space to accommodate our law librarians' teaching needs. All classrooms and seminar rooms throughout the building will be designed to maximize the various formats and teaching methods used by our professors.
3. We are going to house three-fourths of our print collection in compact shelving so that we don't have a lot of wasted real estate in aisles between all the shelves, yet we can continue to be a repository for Wisconsin materials of all kinds for our community as long as we are needed in that capacity. The most often-used portions of our collection by paralegals, attorneys and the local community will be on the first floor near the reference desk on stationary shelving. All shelving is being installed with the idea that as the need for it diminishes, it can be removed for other uses in the law school."

- **Patricia Cervenka**, director and professor of law at Marquette University Law Library in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

member to member

“The first thing I would like to have is additional top-notch librarians. I know this isn’t exactly what you’re asking for, but without great professional personnel, new features won’t mean a thing. With the additional librarians, I would like to set up a business that both the firm’s office personnel and its clients could contact to obtain truly any type of information. With these new staff members, I would purchase every database that’s currently available. How else would we be able to provide every type of information without the databases to support it?”

“With these two items, of course, you need to have a budget that could pay top dollar to the librarians and support the purchase of those databases. But the budget shouldn’t be a problem because this library would be run like a business and would take in enough money to support all of its needs.”

- **Janice Henderson**, *research solutions analyst at Lovells LLP in New York City*