

*AALL Centennial Feature**

Recollections of a Mid-Twentieth-Century Law Firm Librarian**

Elizabeth Finley*** with David S. Mao†

In the early 1960s, Elizabeth Finley, a pioneering law firm librarian, described the development of the Covington & Burling law library over a twenty-year span (1943–63) in a private recollection that is reprinted here. Mr. Mao brackets her account with descriptions of the Covington & Burling library both before and after Finley’s tenure there.

Introduction: The Covington & Burling Library before the Arrival of Elizabeth Finley‡

¶1 Founded in Washington, D.C., in 1919, the international law firm of Covington & Burling has long been known as one of the preeminent law firms in the United States. Perhaps less well known, but equally as important, its library has been among the best of the country’s private law firm libraries. Moreover, the firm has a long history of contribution to law librarianship and the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL).¹

* *Editor’s Note:* The American Association of Law Libraries was founded on July 2, 1906, by a handful of law librarians who met during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island. To commemorate the AALL Centennial that will be celebrated with a yearlong series of events and activities in 2005–06, culminating at the 2006 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, *Law Library Journal* is including an “AALL Centennial Feature” article in each issue published through 2006. While the focus common to each article is the history of law libraries, law librarianship, and AALL, the specific topics vary according to the interests of authors and readers. Individuals interested in contributing a “Centennial Feature” article should contact Frank G. Houdek, Editor, *Law Library Journal*, Southern Illinois University School of Law, Lesar Law Bldg., Mail Code 6803, Carbondale, IL 62901-6803, (618) 453-8788, houdek@siu.edu.

** Revised version of Elizabeth Finley, *The C&B Library Prior to 1943 and History of the Covington and Burling Library and Librarian, 1943–1959* (Apr. 5, 1960) (unpublished manuscript, on file with Covington & Burling, Washington, D.C.). The language, format, and grammatical conventions of the original have been retained except where otherwise indicated.

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1. Two of the firm’s librarians have been president of AALL: Elizabeth Finley (1961–62) and Jack Ellenberger (1976–77).

¶2 A history of the firm notes that it had a library from its earliest years. “By the end of the first fifteen years [the firm’s library collection] consisted of the Supreme Court reports, the Federal reports, the App. D.C., the U.S.C.A., and a modest further collection of miscellany, including what seemed odds and ends from partners’ law school treatises.”² The firm kept these books shelved in a single room. The room also had a long table and several chairs for attorneys to use. By 1930s law firm standards, it was a respectable library and collection.

¶3 Though the firm started with two partners, it had seven partners by the end of 1934. Roosevelt’s New Deal created much work for Washington lawyers, and the firm continued to grow in numbers. At the beginning of 1936, the firm had fifteen partners and was Washington’s largest law firm. The practice “was becoming more diverse and more demanding of ingenious research,” and the government’s work created “a veritable flood of material pertinent to the actions of the government agencies.”³ Firm attorneys actively collected these government publications, and housing these additional materials in the single-room library became a challenge. More space had to be found for the growing collection, as well as someone to help organize it.

¶4 Because the firm did not have a librarian at this time, it enlisted the help of one of its partners, Howard Westwood, to organize the collection. He decided to streamline and modernize the library by preparing a list of what he regarded as “antique, outdated, and superseded books.”⁴ Apparently, the project produced much discussion among the lawyers, including the following exchange of verse between partners.⁵

Westwood, Westwood, spare those books,
 Touch not a single page,
 I conned them well when I was young,
 They help in my old age.
 I care not if you throw away
 The shining volumes of today,
 But, Westwood, spare each dusty tome
 And don’t disturb its musty loam.
 Respect mine ancient Tiffany
 And Barton’s Suit in Equity,
 Oh, Howard Westwood, spare those books
 And Keep them for Posterity.

(Reply)
 Gordon, Gordon, how you sing!
 I never thought it of you.

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2. HOWARD C. WESTWOOD, *COVINGTON & BURLING 1919–1984*, at 87 (1986).
 3. *Id.* at 88. One of the firm’s early partners apparently played a role in some of Roosevelt’s New Deal legislation. The library currently has in its collection one of the pens that President Roosevelt used in 1935 to sign H.R. 6323, “An Act to provide for the custody of Federal proclamations, orders, regulations, notices, and other documents, and for the prompt and uniform, printing and distribution thereof” into law (better known as the Federal Register Act, ch. 417, 49 Stat. 500 (1935)) and that Roosevelt thereafter sent to one of the firm’s partners as a memento.
 4. William Merrick Parker, *Covington and Burling: The First Fifty Years, 1919–1969*, at 244 (1969) (privately published manuscript, on file with Covington & Burling, Washington, D.C.).
 5. *Id.*

Your verses move me near to tears—
 My list they've cut in two.
 For who am I, a babe in arms,
 To mar your age with wild alarms,
 Disturb your placid reminiscence
 Of ancient law and jurisprudence?
 Yet I would warn you: on appeal
 From error gross, eschew, old Beale;
 Beware of Greenleaf, Clark, and Williston.
 Comrade, awake! 'Tis the New Deal!

¶5 Despite this seemingly lighthearted approach to the firm's collection, the attorneys seriously debated the issue, and the firm ultimately decided that it must continue to support the library. It thereafter acquired an additional room and constructed a new library to provide additional space; it made two rooms into one very large room with shelving and seating space for sixteen people. In addition to adding space, the firm also increased its collection. Most significantly, it purchased a portion of West's state reports. To manage the growing collection, the firm asked student clerks to help keep the books properly shelved. But keeping books shelved was not enough. The firm needed someone to "scrutinize the day-to-day outputs by Congress and the agencies and promptly [acquire] pertinent materials" for the firm; therefore, "at long last, in the fall of 1942, the firm decided that it should have a librarian."⁶ The firm was very fortunate to hire Elizabeth Finley.

¶6 Finley was already a well-established librarian in New York, having worked for twenty years at the firm of Root, Clark, Buckner & Ballantine (now Dewey Ballantine LLP). Covington & Burling persuaded her to come to Washington, and over the years she transformed the firm's collection—eventually making it into one of the most influential law firm libraries in Washington, D.C.⁷ Indeed, Elizabeth Finley is a law library luminary. She not only became the first private law librarian to serve as president of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), but she also twice received the association's highest award (one of only two people to have been so honored, the other being Marian Gould Gallagher).⁸ In 1960, Finley wrote about both the Covington & Burling library's genesis and her years at the firm. The following is a discussion of the firm's library in her own words.

6. WESTWOOD, *supra* note 2, at 89.

7. See Paul D. Healey & Mary Rumsey, *Visionaries in Law Librarianship*, AALL SPECTRUM, July 2003, at 16, 18. One of Elizabeth Finley's first projects at the firm was starting a legislative history collection. Her bound legislative histories, and the numerous histories the firm has compiled since she pioneered the concept, are today the crown jewels of the library's collection.

8. On July 5, 1966, Finley, along with Marian Gould Gallagher and Sidney Hill, received a Special Citation for Distinguished Service to AALL at the 59th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. See *Law Librarianship Panel and Awards Luncheon*, 60 LAW LIBR. J. 41 (1967). Finley received her second award, the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, posthumously in 1994. Actually, Covington & Burling owes a debt to AALL, for without the Association, the firm might never have hired Elizabeth Finley. When Finley accepted her citation in 1966, she humbly noted that "the secret of her success was her luck in meeting Helen Newman who introduced her to AALL and to the firm of Covington & Burling." *Id.* at 41.

Recollections of Elizabeth Finley⁹

The C&B Library Prior to 1943

¶7 There follows, in sketchy form, the information I have been able to glean from old files and from conversations with old-timers.

¶8 The library was once in a room on the fourth floor. Then it was in what is now Mr. Roper's secretary's room (703), and then in 716, the present small conference room.

¶9 In 1937 there was talk about moving it to 602 and 605 (Miss Evans and Mr. Maxwell, perhaps including Mr. Acheson but no mention was made of 601), but it was decided to convert 603 and 625 into what is now the main reading room. The move was made in the fall of 1937—Mr. Horsky supplying the man power.

¶10 The file discloses lengthy interoffice memos, mostly addressed to Mr. Acheson, about the purchase of various titles. One dated September 3, 1934, from Charles P. Light, Jr. suggested the acquisition of Harper on Torts and the Explanatory Notes to the various tentative drafts of the Restatements. (Neither seem to have been approved.) He also complained of the glass panel in the library door, and that the "lighting in the library is bad." An impassioned appeal from Mr. Westwood, dated November 24, 1936, for a set of McQuillin on Municipal Corporations met with the same fate. But he had better luck in 1937 when he urged that the firm subscribe to the Court of Appeals opinions, buy Sharfman on Interstate Commerce, and Frankfurter on the Supreme Court.

¶11 A lengthy memorandum from Mr. Acheson was circulated in 1937 asking whether any or all of the National Reporter System should be purchased. As a result the library *did* acquire the Northeast, Northwest, Atlantic, and N.Y. Supplement reporters.

¶12 A note from Mr. Horsky dated January 31, 1938, urging the purchase of *Selected Essays on Constitutional Law* brought such prompt approval that a wire was sent off the same day ordering the volumes, with a check following in the mail. The only difficulty was that work had not even started on the publication. Much frantic correspondence went on between Barbara Evans and the publisher until the set was finally out in August 1938. A similar skirmish went on in 1939 over Scott on Trusts which was also ordered before it was published.

¶13 A perfectly fascinating item turned up in the files. It is unsigned and undated, but scrawled in pencil on the corner appears this notation: "Old memo prepared in 1940 or 1949 by ?." It was headed *Librarian* and opened with "A librarian should be hired, to discharge the following duties. . . ." There followed fourteen points including such extracurricular duties as "Proof read and handle printing of briefs, shepardizing cases, checking citations," and "Keep time records for work spent on cases for all men in the office."

¶14 Under the heading *Library Space* was set forth the proposed location of this paragon: "The librarian should have a desk and the necessary files in the sixth floor cor-

9. Originally published in Finley, *supra* note **.

ridor. The door to Acheson's old room could be kept closed and a small desk could be placed in that recess." Although not so stated, probably a miner's lamp would also have been provided to brighten up this airless, unheated, uncooled black hole of Calcutta.

History of Covington and Burling Library and Librarian, 1943–1959

¶15 I journeyed to Washington from New York on October 12, 1942, to be interviewed by Mr. Westwood. I have never known whether he was the spokesman for a group in the firm who felt a librarian was needed, or whether he was a lone voice crying in the wilderness. I remember Mr. Austern's reaction when I talked to him was: "Why do we need a librarian? I can find everything I need right here," pulling out the file drawer of his desk. All told, I was sent to seven of the lawyers—Mr. Shorb, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Laylin, and Mr. Meck I can now recall. Although it was a strenuous day, it was exhilarating. I was not sure I wanted a job even if it were offered, which gave me a wonderful feeling of independence during the successive interviews.

¶16 I had had the foresight to bring some "samples"—an index to a legislative history I had prepared, the subject index I used for memos of law, and an overall paper I had once written called "Inside the Library." Mr. Westwood opened the interview by demanding that I keep quiet and let him talk. And talk he did, for about twenty minutes, outlining what he thought the job should be. I was amazed to find that he really *did* have an idea of what a law firm library *could* be. So few nonlibrarians have any notion that it takes more than a bright file clerk to operate a library effectively.

¶17 When my turn came to talk, I was able to produce my "samples" to demonstrate I was way ahead of him, and also to amend a few of his ideas and add a few he had not thought of. *Then* he took me to the library!

¶18 My indifference to the job began to stiffen to antipathy. "I want no part of *this*" I thought. The library was the one large room, now usually called the main reading room, and was entered by a door from the hall. There was not an inch of vacant shelf space, and I noticed that Federal, for instance, which had run out of space, was continued across the room after ALR. Lined up in the center of the two tables were the unbound advance sheets and Shepard's for all reports. There was a sizeable stack of unfiled reports for loose-leaf services. As far as I could tell, the textbooks were arranged by color. There were no pamphlet files at all. However, the situation cried so loudly for help that my maternal instincts must have been aroused. On October 29th Mr. Westwood offered me the job, and on November 4th I accepted.

¶19 Due to obligations in New York, I did not actually arrive until January 1943. In the meanwhile shelves had been built in the hall as far as the private staircase. While still in New York, I arranged for the purchase of the balance of the National Reporter System (SW, SE, So, Pac) and a set of the ICC reports.

1943

¶20 When I arrived, there were thirty-four on the legal staff, and the firm occupied all of the seventh floor and the sixth floor as far as Mr. Gesell's room. The understanding had been that this was too small a domain to occupy all of my time, so I was also supposed to be "office manager." This I never was, but I did take on some

housekeeping chores. I took over the buying of supplies from Miss Fisk, and also equipment—which was not so simple during the war shortages. I supervised the periodic room switches and looked after office maintenance in general, including trying to keep the air conditioners neither too cold nor too hot. I managed to transfer the air conditioner headache in 1946, but kept up the other “management” duties until January 1949 when Mr. McCutcheon came to the firm.

¶21 For the first few months, I felt that I was living in a vacuum. The library office was not cut through into the library proper, so I worked in solitude. The lawyers gave me a wide berth, as if I were some strange dog in the neighborhood. It never occurred to them to ask me for help. This may have been just as well, since I had the time to catalogue the collection, to set up files, and to rearrange the books. I took over the few volumes of memoranda of law that Mr. Meck had collected and indexed them. I wrote countless memos on what the library needed and why, and began being active in the local library associations. By the time the entrance to the library was changed, and I was *in*, not *of*, the library, the strangeness began to wear off.

¶22 Up to the fall of 1943, congressional matters had been handled by the law clerks’ department, first by Mr. Rule, I believe, and by the time I arrived by Miss Hicks. Military service had decimated the staff of law clerks, and when Miss Hicks left there was no one but me who could carry on the job. Besides, since I was responsible for compiling legislative histories, it was logical that I should do the whole job. So the existing file cabinets of legislation were moved to the present legislative room—then the office of Mr. Westwood’s secretary. Dick Lansdale became my legislative assistant. I also had a part-time clerical assistant, who changed frequently. It was not until March 1949 when Miss Hewitt came that I had a full-time clerical assistant.

1944–1947

¶23 The library perked along, gaining speed as we went, but without any physical change until 1947 when the “legislative room” was cut through. Up to then, the library assistant had shared the room with one or more secretaries. Dick Lansdale was succeeded by Miss Merrill in 1945, who in turn was succeeded by Beverly Brody Baker in 1946. To indicate the growth of the office during this time, as of January 1, 1945, the office personnel totaled 88; January 1, 1946, 101; January 1, 1947, 114.

¶24 Shelf space was getting tight by 1945, but the new room and some additional shelves in the hall eased the situation. By 1947 we had compiled legislative histories of 107 acts of Congress and indexed 23 volumes of memoranda of law.

¶25 In 1946 I gave a paper on legislative histories at the St. Louis convention of the AALL. It was printed in the *Law Library Journal*¹⁰ and reprinted in *Special Libraries*. A man at National Archives even wanted reprints to circulate around Congress to help him in his campaign to have all old committee files transferred to Archives. In 1947 I gave a paper on law firm libraries at the convention in Santa Fe.¹¹

10. *Editor’s Note*: Elizabeth Finley, *Legislative Histories*, 39 LAW LIBR. J. 161 (1946).

11. *Editor’s Note*: Elizabeth Finley, *Law Office Libraries*, 40 LAW LIBR. J. 179 (1947).

¶26 I served as vice president of the local chapter of the AALL¹² from 1945 to 1947.

1948–1949

¶27 1948 found us serving a legal staff of sixty as against thirty-four in 1943, and by 1949 this had increased to seventy. The part-time clerical assistant was replaced by a full-time (Miss Hewitt) in March 1949. Shelf space continued to be a problem, and the hall shelves were extended as far as the reception desk on the sixth floor.

¶28 In June 1948 I became treasurer of AALL, which post I held until 1956. I wrote two chapters for the fourth edition of *How to Find the Law*, one on legislative history¹³ and one on federal administrative agencies.¹⁴ I also wrote a review of [Arthur S.] Beardsley [and Oscar Orman], *Legal Bibliography and the Use of Law Books* for the *Indiana Law Journal*.¹⁵

¶29 By 1949 our legislative history collection had grown to 304 acts, and our memos of law to twenty-eight volumes. A happy event in 1949 was the installation of the speakers in the library for telephone paging. Thus the constant interruptions, asking “is whosis in the library” were almost eliminated.

1950–1952

¶30 In May of 1950 the back room was added to the library, and people began calling me the empire builder.

¶31 This month also saw the first issue of “Items,” which I undertook to edit. This was an attempt to furnish a medium for inter-office information. The idea was that the lawyers would supply items of interesting cases they were handling, and I would round up items of personal interest. It bumped along irregularly until June 1952, when it expired. Too many lawyers felt their work was too confidential to appear in a publication that occasionally found its way outside the office.

¶32 In 1951 I gained a little added space by exchanging our old thick paper (and badly worn) set of the first series of *Federal Reporter* for a new thin paper set.

¶33 By the end of 1952 the statistics stood: legal staff, 93; legislative histories, 491; memos of law, 30; records and briefs, 111.

1953–1955

¶34 I served a term, 1953–54, as chairman of the Legislative Reference Group of Special Libraries Association, and appeared on a panel discussion of law firm problems at the Los Angeles convention of AALL [1953].

12. *Editor's Note*: Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., which was approved as AALL's second chapter in 1942. *Proceedings of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries Held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22 to June 25, 1942*, 35 LAW LIBR. J. 251, 275 (1942).

13. *Editor's Note*: Elizabeth Finley, *Legislative Histories*, in CARLTON B. PUTNAM, *HOW TO FIND THE LAW: A COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OF THE PROBLEMS OF LEGAL RESEARCH WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS, TOGETHER WITH A LEGAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR EACH STATE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT* 338 (1949) [hereinafter *HOW TO FIND THE LAW*].

14. *Editor's Note*: Elizabeth Finley, *Search for the Law of Federal Administrative Agencies*, in *HOW TO FIND THE LAW*, *supra* note 13, at 250.

15. *Editor's Note*: Elizabeth Finley, Book Review, 24 IND. L.J. 328 (1949).

¶35 In 1955 the “secretarial training course” was started in the office. The library section of this course consisted of four one-hour sessions where the girls were given problems to solve by actually using the books. These courses were given twice a year until 1958.

¶36 Additional shelves were added to the sixth-floor hall beyond the reception desk, thus exhausting the possibilities of the hall. We started a file of annual reports of corporations and proxy material, which has proved most useful. In fact, the growing demand for corporate information made it necessary for us to subscribe to the complete set of Moody’s manuals.

¶37 Mrs. Baker left as legislative assistant in September 1955 and was succeeded by Mrs. Alice Moore.

¶38 Statistics of 1955: legislative histories, 633; records and briefs, 136; memos of law, 46.

1956–1957

¶39 Alice Moore left December 1, 1956, and was succeeded in January 1957 by Joan Smith. I served as chairman of the AALL nominating committee in 1956, and as vice president of the Law Librarian’s Society of Washington, D.C. I became president of the latter in 1957 (term expired June 1959).

¶40 In March 1957 I prepared a special memorandum on library space, in which I pointed out the need for a long-range plan. The following excerpts from this report are of interest:

Without adding a single new title, our library increases at the rate of 80 feet of shelf space per year. An average of 300 new volumes are added annually, not counting Congressional hearings which need 20 feet a year.

¶41 I pointed out that our library occupied only 1,655 square feet of floor space of which only 1,492 are in rooms.

This is an extremely small space for a collection of over 12,000 books plus Congressional material, and serving eighty lawyers.

¶42 Statistics as of 1957: legislative histories, 700; records and briefs, 155; memos of law, 51.

1958–1959

¶43 In ten years, from 1949 through 1958, our circulation count—that is books charged out to lawyers, but not including pamphlets—has increased from 27,378 to 46,893. The legal staff was increased from 34 in 1943 to 117 in 1959. The library staff was also increased in 1958 by the addition of Kevin Smith, who does most of the leg work on the Hill and helps out generally in the library.

¶44 A new room was added to the library in 1959, which, I hope, will take care of our normal expansion for five years. Shelves were also installed on the eighth floor to house a duplicate run of the U.S. Reports and Federal 2d from about 1940.

¶45 In 1958 I went to New York to speak on legislative histories at an institute sponsored by the Law Library Association of Greater New York. In 1959 I was on two panels at the AALL convention in New York—one on “Qualitative Standards

for Law Libraries”¹⁶ and one on law firm libraries.¹⁷ I also had two articles published: “Library or Mess” in the November–December issue of *Case and Comment* and “Crystal Gazing” in the December issue of *American Bar Association Journal*. I have been nominated president-elect of the AALL, which means that I become “elect” in June 1960 and president in June 1961.

¶46 Statistics as of the end of 1959: legislative histories, 750; records and briefs, 167; memos of law, 54.

1960–1963¹⁸

¶47 An official count of the number of volumes was made early in this period. As of February 16, 1960, it was 14,805. At December 31, 1963, it stood at 16,277.

¶48 The routine operation of the library was somewhat disturbed in 1961 by the time I had to take off in connection with my office of president of the AALL. Thanks to Joan Smith, who filled in so willingly and ably when necessary, our usual operations were not noticeably interrupted.

¶49 Circulation remained our most pressing problem. Our count for 1962 showed 61,883 books charged out. For 1963, the number jumped to 69,747.

¶50 The legal staff had increased from 34 in 1943 to 118 in 1963.

¶51 Statistics as of the end of 1963: legislative histories, 837; records and briefs, 208; memos of law, 60.

Postscript: The Covington & Burling Library after the Departure of Elizabeth Finley*

¶52 By 1963, Elizabeth Finley had been at the firm for twenty years and built the library into the best private law library in Washington, D.C, if not the country. Having been a law librarian for more than forty years, she realized she needed to find a successor. The firm was again very fortunate as she hired Jack Ellenberger as her assistant. When she retired in September 1963, he succeeded her as the firm’s librarian. Prior to joining Covington, Ellenberger was the librarian of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. He also had been a librarian at the Cleveland, Ohio, firm Jones, Day, Cockley & Reavis (now Jones Day), and the New York firm of Carter Ledyard & Milburn.¹⁹

¶53 During the period 1964 to 1968, Ellenberger and the library staff physically reorganized and weeded the collection. The firm added new stack space on another floor to help with the overflowing and still growing collection—approximately 1500 linear feet of shelving for the storage of older legislative materials and parts of the

16. *Editor’s Note: See The Development of Qualitative Standards for the Evaluation of Law Libraries—A Panel*, 52 LAW LIBR. J. 324, 329–33 (1952) (remarks of Elizabeth Finley on law office libraries).

17. *Editor’s Note: See Problems of Private Law Libraries—A Round Table Discussion*, 52 LAW LIBR. J. 370, 389–91 (1959) (remarks of Elizabeth Finley on office relations).

18. *Editor’s Note: A revised version of Finley’s manuscript that included the years 1960–63 was published in Parker, supra note 4, at 647–48.*

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19. As noted earlier, Ellenberger served as president of AALL in 1976–77. In 1978 he left the firm to become the librarian at the New York firm of Shearman & Sterling LLP. Like his mentor Elizabeth Finley, he subsequently received AALL’s Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award in 1994.

regular collection retired from active use.²⁰ The library's other major activities at this time included constructing a list of subject headings used for library cataloging, introducing new methods in the storage and retrieval of congressional legislative documents, installing a library book copier, and adding microfilm material to the collection—notably the earlier years of the *Federal Register*, the Economic Decisions of the Civil Aeronautics Board, and a vast amount of legislative history documents.²¹

¶54 By 1966, the firm had more than a hundred attorneys. The space devoted to the library was not sufficient for such a large legal staff. Indeed, the firm was already occupying space in two adjoining buildings. The firm had begun looking for new quarters in 1965, and eventually it leased new space in a building that the Motion Picture Association was planning to construct. Late in 1966, the firm began planning for a new library. Significantly, the firm believed that a new library should be contained within one major area of the new office. As the firm's librarian, Ellenberger was actively involved with the design of the new library; eventually, the "plan evolved into a single large area 134 feet by 34 feet to be superbly equipped with custom shelving and capable of seating about 40 legal staff, with library staff accommodation for six persons."²² Finally, in 1969, at the end of a half century, the firm moved to the new building at 888 Sixteenth Street, NW. The central feature was a "magnificent library with comfortable work space and space for future acquisitions."²³

¶55 In its first fifty years, the Covington & Burling library developed into a model for private law libraries. Under its first two leaders, the library became not only an integral part of the firm, but also an invaluable asset to the firm's practice. In the thirty-five years since, the firm has grown to include five domestic and international offices. The firm maintains libraries in each office and has a total professional staff of sixteen librarians. The D.C. library has changed physically since its initial construction in 1981, and the print collection has changed as well—especially in the digital age of the twenty-first century.²⁴ Nonetheless, the library continues to support and provide for the firm's research and information needs. Significantly, the Covington & Burling library continues to follow the Finley and Ellenberger model of service to and innovation in the profession. Today, many of the firm's librarians are active in both local and national library associations. Moreover, the library has developed innovative information tools, such as a sophisticated intranet—including original digital legislative history compilations—and extensive training and outreach programs.

20. Parker, *supra* note 4, at 651.

21. *Id.*

22. *Id.* at 653.

23. WESTWOOD, *supra* note 2, at 94. However, within eight years, sudden growth of the firm required additional quarters in a second building a block away and the creation of a satellite library at that location. In 1981, the firm moved to its current location at 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The library has two floors connected by an internal stairwell and is centrally located at the heart of the firm's space.

24. Physically, the D.C. library has reduced its space over the last several years. As attorneys became able to conduct research from their desktops (e.g., using electronic resources or checking the library's catalog on the firm's intranet), the library needed less seating and research space. In 1981 the library had seating space for about eighty. Currently, the library has seating for about twenty-five. Moreover, increased reliance on electronic sources has reduced the library's print collection. For example, the firm no longer subscribes to any regional or federal reporters in print, and even many treatises and journals are now accessed electronically.