A library is more than a building. It is a collection of resources, opportunities, knowledge, and learning. It is a refuge, a place of quiet contemplation, and, at many law schools, the center of the student experience. A good library is defined by many factors: quality staff, strong service orientation, and depth and breadth of materials that address the educational and scholarly needs of the law school community. Increasingly, the library lives outside of physical space or time. With greater emphasis on electronic resources, parts of the library collection are accessible at all times. However, the foundation of any library, the tapestry upon which the whole library is built, and the place where scholars, students, librarians, and materials reside, rests within the physical walls of the library building.

George R. White Law Library at Concordia University School of Law in Boise, Idaho, is half architectural rebirth, half architectural creation. Within its walls is seating for 272 patrons, shelving for 30,000 print volumes, eight study rooms, a conference room, the School of Law IT suite, clinical space, a lactation room, a shower, and a chapel. In June 2012, the collection contained zero print volumes, but, by February, it had grown to just over 12,000.

A Brief History
To fully appreciate the evolution of the library and law school building, one must first look at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, of which the school of law is a part. Concordia University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university open to students of any faith. For more than 30 years, Concordia University

By Phillip Gragg

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has been under the bold and measured leadership of President Chuck Schlimpert. During this period, the university has consistently been a top educator of teachers in the state of Oregon. In the past 15 years, the university has created forward-thinking programs and expanded its capabilities by adding masters of business and nursing programs. In late 2007, the university began feasibility studies of a law school in Boise. As a state capital and one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States without a three-year law program, it was a natural choice.

In December 2008, Dean Cathy R. Silak was appointed to lead the law school from a vision on paper to a reality. Along the way, Silak was able to draw on the experience and expertise of staff and faculty in Portland as well as the deep legal knowledge of members of the Oregon and Idaho legal communities. Those most involved in the cause became members of the Dean’s Advisory Council. Of the council, Silak says, “The excitement in the community for the law school was so great that friends, business leaders, and colleagues from the legal profession immediately began reaching out to me about the project.” The council continues its work to this day and consists of private and government attorneys, educators, bibliophiles, and others passionate about providing first-rate legal education in the Treasure Valley.

Selecting a Location
With strong moral and financial backing from the university and the Dean’s Advisory Council, the search for a suitable property began. In all, the dean, members of the council, and members of

Going Green
Concordia University School of Law is presently seeking to become the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-certified building in Boise. Although there are many interesting aspects and advantages of efficient buildings, some features garner more intrigue than others. For the safety and comfort of occupants, fresh air must be brought into buildings to keep carbon dioxide levels safe. In most conventional buildings, this is achieved by bleeding a fixed amount of air into the overall HVAC system. In order to maintain safe levels at peak use, the amount of outside air taken in often exceeds what is required. This leads to unnecessary heating and cooling of outside air. Modern systems, like the one at the school of law, use temperature and carbon dioxide sensors throughout the building to measure saturation levels. An automated plenum can then be adjusted according to need. The end result is greater efficiency but also more consistent air quality.

The system that garners the most attention, however, is the collection of pipes and pumps in the geothermal room (sometimes called “the sauna”). The Boise Public Works Department administers the largest direct-use geothermal system in the United States, which includes four independent heating districts. Concordia is both a beneficiary and a community partner in this wonderful capability. The reduced operating costs and efficiency of the system are strong factors in the pursuit of LEED Gold status.
the architectural team looked at more than 30 properties. Although many fine properties were considered, the primacy of real estate purchasing won out: location, location, location. Ultimately, the property at 501 W. Front Street in downtown Boise was chosen for its proximity to the heart of the Boise legal community. Within walking distance are state and county courts, including the Idaho Supreme Court and Appellate Court, as well as the Federal District Court.

**Merging Old and New**

The school of law sits on a single parcel and consists of the library; administrative, faculty, clinical, and student services offices; and six classrooms ranging in capacity from 20 to 140. Although the law school consists of a repurposed building and an entirely new one, it is legally one building. The library is largely housed in a renovated warehouse. That space had previously been converted to mixed office space, and the industrial elements that remain give it a modern yet rugged look, fitting with the Boise lifestyle. Life in Boise is defined in large part by the surrounding mountains and rivers of an outdoorsman’s paradise. The use of light-colored wood, Idaho pine, and metal create a northwestern commentary on Scandinavian design principles. Architectural elements from the exterior of the former warehouse have been preserved and carried through to the new building. Truly, the old blends with the new seamlessly. Original plans called for attaching the new construction to the existing building, which constitutes about 90 percent of George R. White Law Library. However, seismic construction standards required a three-inch gap between the two structures. The gap has been sealed with a large rubber flex joint and metal walking plates. Most people don’t even notice it, thanks to the openness and flow of the hallways throughout both buildings.

The building abounds with technology, and the students and faculty enjoy the use of SMART podia and SMART boards in classrooms, the Mock Trial Room, study rooms, and conference rooms. The building is equipped with motion-sensing lights that time out to conserve energy. Boise enjoys a fairly sunny climate, so prodigious use of glass throughout the old and new construction, as well as the use of

**A Room with a Name**

For better or worse, a building takes on certain characteristics based on design and use. In an attempt to personalize their environment, the people at Concordia University School of Law have named several of the rooms to add character to an already interesting space.

*The faculty vault*: a long, narrow hallway that holds eight faculty offices; entrance is obtained through a windowless door. An anonymous suggestion card offered the idea that the door should lock from the outside. The suggestion is under review.

*The meat locker*: a windowless, low-ceiling classroom currently being used as a dedicated quiet study space by 1Ls.

*The cage*: the law school’s “triple secure” bike storage, which sits behind an exterior gate and electronically locking chain-link door and provides for vertical storage and locking of bicycles.

*The cave*: the windowless Information Technology Suite, which has three rooms, including the switch rack and patch panel for the building’s VOIP phones, as well as the backup servers for the main campus in Portland.

*The ballroom*: a large-capacity, multi-modal room. The furniture is easily reconfigured, and the room has been used for receptions, class instruction, Dean’s Advisory Council meetings, seminars, and CLEs.

*The dairy*: named by one of the mothers on staff, a small room setup using federal guidelines that is offered for the exclusive use of nursing mothers. The room takes advantage of programmable electronic locks so that only authorized users may enter. Approximately 60 percent of Concordia law students are parents, and between faculty, staff, and students, the school of law has welcomed nine new babies in less than 12 months!

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An Enduring Symbol
As an accessible, welcoming, and educational meeting place for the people of Colorado, the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center preserves the state’s heritage for future generations while serving as a symbol of the rule of law and a just society.

We invite you to come and see it for yourself. It’s not just a state building; it’s another distinctive destination in colorful Colorado.

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In order to integrate the law library into the rest of the law school, the library has 11 entry/exit points to ease traffic flow. Additionally, to better secure our print collection, the new library applies radio-frequency identification technology to its collection with a security gate installed at each entry/exit point to provide more information about items leaving the library.

Challenges
Because the new six-floor library design makes the movement of people and materials flow more vertically than in the old building, it demands that the library staff rethink its existing service model and create a new model that fits the new configuration. While it will take time to refine what we do, we are well on the way to defining what we will be in the future. This new way of thinking can help the law library remain a “place” that facilitates knowledge creation and consumption and once again proves to be a vital organ within the law school.

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skylights in the library, has led to both energy savings and a warmth not found in many buildings.

Realizing a Vision
The title of this article, “Building with Vision,” refers not to the networked security cameras throughout the law school meant drawing on the collective wisdom of existing church and university resources but also from the great depth, creativity, and generosity of members of the lay and legal communities.

Concordia University is “a Christian university preparing leaders for the transformation of society.” To that end, Schlimpert has been motivated by the idea that “If it’s good for the community, it’s good for Concordia.” The greatest thing that the school of law has to offer to society and the field of legal education is its newness. The opportunity to create from the ground up has led to comprehensive experiential learning opportunities, a dynamic curriculum that emphasizes writing and research in all three years, and a program of study that imbeds in its students the value of service to the community.

As a building, as a work of architecture, the school of law is part of an impressive but accessible capital city. During construction and planning, Concordia was in the unusual position of building for something that had not yet come to pass rather than a current and projected study body. Inside, the workspace, classrooms, and study areas were built for growth—built to meet the future demands that will spring from the current vision of a new law school.

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What Do War and Embedded Librarianship Have In Common?
By Stephanie J. Ball
tinyurl.com/chhb6f9

We’ve all heard of the term “embedded journalist,” which refers to news reporters being attached to military units involved in armed conflicts. With the traditional role of law librarians evolving within the firm environment, we are witnessing the changing relationship between librarians and the internal clients they support. This article discusses how the symbiotic relationship between attorneys, practice groups, and management can benefit from a new paradigm of embedded librarianship. Uniquely positioned librarians will help law firms meet the needs and challenges of today’s economy.

Getting a Better Bead on Bloomberg Law
By Michael J. Robak
tinyurl.com/dyu2s6b

Tremendous changes continue in the legal publishing industry. While it is still far too early to prognosticate how the Bloomberg Law story will play out, it is clear the company means to be competitive in the world of legal information publishing. As such, this article records the larger changes that have transformed Bloomberg Law in the past four years, briefly reviews a small controversy about the Bloomberg Citator name, and discusses Bloomberg’s “killer app”—no-cost access to docket searching and retrieval, particularly PACER docket and documents, for academics.