At the University of Virginia Law Library, we are here for you.

You may be surprised at the many ways we are available to help faculty and students with scholarship, research, teaching, and learning.

- In our Research Services section, read about how we helped Risa Goluboff produce *Vagrant Nation*; or how we have helped Debbie Hellman with questions such as determining the exact law Rosa Parks defied in Montgomery.

- Interested in Empirical Research? Read of the data-intensive projects on which we have collaborated with faculty, including collecting over 26 million copyright records with Dotan Oliar, and meet our brand new Empirical Research Librarian.

- In our Teaching section, read about our skills-based approach to our popular Advanced Legal Research class; about how we prepare our LLM students to practice American law, and see our new Collaborative Classroom, which is available for you to use.

- Learn about the digital research archives we create at Special Collections and the services we provide to faculty to process and preserve their donated collections.

Just ask. It's your library.
The mission of the Law Library’s research services is to partner with faculty in support of their scholarship, in any way we can.
In 2015 our Refdesk service fielded more than 1,950 inquiries from 87 members of the law faculty. Some only wrote once or twice, but others took fuller advantage of our services. Here are two of their stories.

In early 2007, Risa Goluboff’s book *The Lost Promise of Civil Rights* had gone to press, and she was ready to tackle her next writing project. She knew how much the library could assist, because we had been helping her find resources since the time she was finishing her Ph.D. dissertation as a Research Associate Professor in 2002-03 (the first in a distinguished line of Princeton PhDs with which the Law Library has assisted). She had the idea of working on vagrancy issues, and began by requesting a broad range of books and articles. Before long, the Library was checking on the availability of judges’ and lawyers’ papers in cities across the country and preparing spreadsheets of vagrancy arrests. As the book took shape, we provided background information on the earliest constitutional challenges to vagrancy and disorderly conduct laws; socialists in the 1930s; skid row (including why it was sometimes known as “the main stem”); the Beat generation; and the hippies.

We determined how to locate arrest records for Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and found out what the weather was like in Louisville on January 24, 1959. We studied how people dressed for proms in the 1950s (taffeta for the ladies, white tuxedo jackets for the men). We weren’t able to learn what had happened to Hattie Mae Ricks, defendant in a 1968 D.C. Circuit case, but we did find a telephone number for Margaret Papachristou of Supreme Court case fame, even though her last name had changed three times. “My scholarship is improved by the specific tasks the librarians perform, but it is transformed by their overarching commitment to provide me with whatever kind of support I might need,” says Risa.

“The incredible range of the library’s assistance makes it possible not only to execute projects, but to conceive of them in more ambitious ways.”

By January 2015, all nine chapters had been written and it was time to put the pieces all together. Leslie Ashbrook stepped in to cite-check the entire manuscript and format the book’s 99 pages of footnotes, with the help of several research assistants. As Risa wrote in the book’s acknowledgments, “knowing that that monstrous project was in her extremely capable hands gave me confidence and relief during the final months of editing.”
Debbie Hellman has turned to the library regularly to help her hone her scholarship. In 2015, for example, she wrote to Refdesk nearly a hundred times. Two-thirds of these inquiries were requests for specific books, articles, or cases, but others were more open-ended questions. Here are some sample issues for which she turned to Refdesk:

- In how many states was same-sex marriage achieved by federal court decision, how many by state court decision, and how many by referendum or legislative decision?
- If a lawyer donates services to a campaign, is this treated as a campaign contribution?
- How is “the appearance of corruption” defined by courts or commentators?
- What has been written from a philosophical perspective on privatization?
- Are there moral/philosophical articles on the issue that our “all voluntary” military is largely made up of poor people?
- In what affirmative action cases has the Supreme Court looked to see whether the state could have achieved its aims using race-neutral means?
- What law did Rosa Parks defy when she refused to move to the back of the bus?

Partnering with Refdesk has allowed Debbie to focus on the broader concepts of her scholarship. “I find that when I have a question that is only partly formed,” she says, “the librarians are able to provide answers that allow me to refine my thoughts about what I really want to know and then to take that revised question and pursue it further.”
Neither Risa nor Debbie, however, is Refdesk’s most prolific patron. That honor goes to John Monahan, who has sent us more than 2,800 messages since the Refdesk service launched twenty years ago. We’ve helped him get his hands on new books and articles, track developments in cases and legislation, and even locate every jihadi terrorist confined in the Bureau of Prisons.

“I can’t think of any project that I’ve ever done that hasn’t benefitted from involving Refdesk right at the beginning,” John says. “Not only do I always get exactly what I asked for, but I usually also get what I didn’t know enough to ask for, but really needed. It’s an indispensable resource for me.”
Law Librarians Jon Ashley and Alex Jakubow support empirical legal research across the entire life cycle of a project, from the early stages of finding and assessing data sources to collection, cleaning, and display. Our recent projects:

- Worked with Dotan Oliar to collect over 26 million copyright registration records from the website of the U.S. Copyright Office and convert them to easily accessible CSV files for scholarly use.

- Marked up the entire corpus of U.S. Supreme Court opinions to identify the start and author of each majority, concurring, and dissenting opinion. Mike Livermore analyzed the resulting data to study stylistic differences in writing between justices and over time.

- Created publicly accessible websites with Brandon Garrett to allow new research into corporate prosecutions. Nearly 3,000 documents are now available as part of the Law Library’s ongoing effort to obtain primary materials.

As text analysis and data visualization grow in their importance to legal research, we provide expertise in the following software and programming languages:

- Stata
- SAS
- R
- Python
- ArcGIS
- SQL

Alex Jakubow

The newest member of our empirical research staff, Alex Jakubow, received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University in Political Science in 2014. After a couple years in New Mexico teaching and working for the New Mexico State University Office of Institutional Analysis, Alex and his wife, Devon, made the move east this past December. They have a dachshund/papillion mix named “Lunch Lady Doris” and enjoy Charlottesville’s lively restaurant scene.
“EVERYONE IN LAW SCHOOL SHOULD TAKE THIS CLASS!

The class was both useful and informative, and I truly believe that this is one . . . which will help me outside of this building.”

- Student evaluation of Advanced Legal Research
As law librarians, we know the value of legal research because we do it every day. As teachers, we make it our priority to develop in our students the legal research skills they need to become successful lawyers.

WHAT WE OFFER

• Six sections of Advanced Legal Research
• A course on International and Foreign Legal Research
• A course on legal research and writing for LLM students
• A designated library liaison for each section of Legal Research and Writing
• A designated library liaison for each summer RA
• One-on-one research consultations with students
• Guest lectures on legal research topics for any law school class
In our classes and one-on-one meetings with students, we focus on developing practical research skills for lawyers. We believe that skills-based learning requires active participation by the students in and out of the classroom. We allow the students to drive the learning, focusing on skill development and not a set schedule of topics that we must cover by the end of the semester. We make use of interactive technology to encourage participation. Our doors are always open for questions, as talking through research problems is often the best way to learn.
As the institutional archive of the UVA Law School, Special Collections maintains records of the Dean and other administrative offices, the Law School Foundation, and student groups, and a photograph collection of nearly 30,000 images dating back to the 1880s. We provide reference services and copies of law school records to law faculty, alumni, students, and administration.
Manuscripts donated by UVA Law faculty ensure that Special Collections will remain an important center for legal and scholarly research. These collections detail faculty teaching, research, and work on a diversity of commissions and legal institutions. We provide full archival processing and long-term preservation and storage.

Examples of faculty manuscript collections include:

- **David A. Martin**, papers on immigration and international law
- **A.E. Dick Howard**, papers on Central and Eastern European constitutions
- **Richard J. Bonnie**, papers of the Virginia Commission on Mental Health Law Reform
- **Daniel J. Meador**, records of the Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

“Contemporaneous accounts of participants in public affairs have been tremendously valuable to my archival research and have made me mindful of the potential value of my own papers relating to federal drug policy and mental health reform. These records are now available to new generations of researchers at Law Special Collections.”

- **Richard Bonnie**
In recent years, one of the Library’s most vigorous initiatives has been the development of print and digital archival collections that directly support research at the law school and within the broader scholarly community. Our manuscripts and our 10,000-item rare book collection cover foreign and domestic legal theory and practice from the fifteenth to the twenty-first century. Over the past ten years we have digitized more than 150,000 manuscript objects for online, open-access research.

archives.law.virginia.edu
We hope that you have enjoyed this quick overview of the Law Library’s recent activities and that you feel better informed about our major initiatives.

Our mission of supporting excellence in research remains at the forefront of our agenda, and we are fortunate to have one of the most diverse, experienced, and productive legal research teams in the country to assist the Law School’s distinguished faculty. Our team includes experts in U.S and international law, and in recent years we have added specialists in business law, political science, history, and empirical research techniques.

As the popularity of the Advanced Legal Research course grows, our law librarians are spending more time in the classroom. The librarian as teacher is not a new concept; each time a student asks a research question librarians have an opportunity to teach research techniques that help students succeed in their law classes as well as in the law firm. Our law librarians expand this teaching in their research courses, where they are exploring instructional strategies that train students in critical research skills and teach them how to assimilate information for effective legal writing. The library’s new collaborative classroom’s informal, flexible space and enhanced technology offer teachers and students space to work and learn together.

Beyond research and teaching, our Library is engaged in knowledge production. We build digital portals to vast bodies of new data, and we assist our faculty in exploring new research methods, new technologies, and new strategies for disseminating scholarship. At the same time we are developing tools for discovering, viewing, and preserving digital documents, providing innovative ways to access and interact with research materials of scholarly value. This brochure introduces a few of our many digital projects, focusing on those we have built in partnership with members of the law faculty.

Many thanks to our faculty, who have been avid library supporters and whose own standards of excellence have been inspirational.
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

Research questions:
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Special and Digital Collections:
lawarchives@virginia.edu

IT’S YOUR LIBRARY!