63rd Annual Meeting
The Council of Voting Members

Global Resources Collections Forum

Center for Research Libraries
April 20, 2012
Shaping CRL’s Strategic Agenda:

Primary Sources and Research Collections

Law and Government
Shaping CRL’s Agenda: Law and Government

- Background: the CRL/LLMC partnership
- LLMC perspective
- Digitization selection
- Comparative analysis: LLMC and other databases for historical legal research
- Sustaining the partnership: alternatives

Bernie Reilly, CRL
Kathleen Richman, Law Library Microform Consortium (LLMC)
Virginia Kerr, CRL
The CRL/ LLMC Partnership

• Formalized in 2010

• Shared interests: identifying, preserving, and providing digital access to important at-risk primary source documents

• Activities: digitization and print preservation

• LLMC-Digital database: over 35 million pages (5,000 titles); U.S. and various national jurisdictions
Digitization Priorities: Joint Steering Committee

Content added 2010–12
• Canadian legislative journals
• U.S. legislative journals (beginning with western states)
• Haiti patrimony collections
• African legal documents, British colonial and post-colonial (from LA Law Library)

Content planned for 2012–14
• Additional state legislative journals
• African law reports (from various libraries)
Digitization Priorities: Joint Steering Committee

Future projects:

• Foreign official gazettes (500+ CRL records)
• Pre-Soviet materials (U. Michigan)
• Chinese codes and case law 1912-1949 (U. Michigan)
• British legal mss from Inner Temple, and Privy Court docs
Comparative Analysis: Online Resources for Legal History

- **LLMC-Digital and . . .**
  - HeinOnline
  - LexisNexis/LN-Academic
  - *Making of Modern Law* (Gale)
  - Hathi Trust and other open access sources

- **Reports**
  - Comparative analysis
    - [www.crl.edu/collections/topics/legal-databases-comparative-analysis](http://www.crl.edu/collections/topics/legal-databases-comparative-analysis)
  - Review of LLMC-Digital [www.crl.edu/review/llmc-digital](http://www.crl.edu/review/llmc-digital)
  - Review of HeinOnline [www.crl.edu/review/heinonline](http://www.crl.edu/review/heinonline)

- **Discussions with librarians in law, documents, political science**
Comparative Analysis: CONTENT

**LLMC-Digital collection strengths**

- Foreign content, especially British colonial and post-colonial
- Expanding U.S. state content (unique holdings in legislative journals, attorney generals’ reports, court reports)

**Overlap**

Sample shows 22% LLMC-Digital content unique, but 59% overlap with various open access sources

**Historical research**

While *LexisNexis/LN Academic* and *Westlaw* are “excellent access to current laws”, not as useful for scholars searching for historical content
University of California, San Diego

• Human rights violations in Japanese-occupied Korea
• Text mining all decisions of U.S. Court of International Trade
• Undergraduate research involving state laws

Michigan State University

• African history course lecture on 1950s Mau Mau anti-colonial uprising in Kenya
Comparative Analysis: DISCOVERY

LLMC-Digital limitations

- **Catalog records**: not all subscribers buy sets from OCLC
- **Web indexing**: need titles loaded in link-resolver lists, and indexed in web-scale discovery tools
- **Serial holdings** hard to track and compare with print; but holdings in Hathi even more difficult
- **Not a “go to” resource**: fills gaps after HeinOnline, LexisNexis, etc. Low usage compared to HeinOnline core (which includes journals); 60% law school libraries use HeinOnline “extensively”.
Comparative Analysis: INTERFACE

- Users prefer standard database interfaces (such as Gale)
- LLMC looking into: improving document navigation and downloading, user friendly title browse, screen layout
- Replace the platform?