



**Tips for improving convenience,
access and cost savings with
LexisNexis® Digital Library**

**Fostering student success with the library as
“the heart of the law school”**

Business Need: More Flexible, Cost-Effective Law Book and Study Aid Access

Law students, practicing lawyers seeking a master’s degree, evening students, clinic students ... the Shepard Broad College of Law at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is known for putting innovation into practice to meet wide-ranging student needs. With students located on campus, across the state and across the country—and some in international locations—flexible access to library resources is essential. And with mounting economic pressures on both students and the library, everyone involved welcomes modern, cost-effective resource tools.

Forging Digital Library Success

In late 2017, the Panza Maurer Law Library at Shepard Broad College of Law began providing students, faculty and staff with LexisNexis® Digital Library on-demand access to study aids and practitioner titles, available from anywhere. This initiative was designed to better meet the needs of students—including those located remotely—while saving students and the library money.

The offering includes unlimited web access to study aids, plus limited online “seats” for access to practitioner materials. LexisNexis® eBooks in the digital library deliver an easy-to-read, book-like format, as well as tools for search, highlighting and annotating, plus links to the Lexis Advance® service.

What’s in the digital library? Practitioner content includes Florida Bar materials focused on key practice areas, plus titles like *Corbin on Contracts*, *Moore’s Federal Rules Pamphlet*, *Punitive Damages*, the U.S. Code Service, and *Representing the Child Client*, authored by NSU professor Michael J. Dale, JD.

The most popular digital library offerings are study aids, including the *Questions & Answers* series, the *Understanding* series, the *Skills & Values* series and the *Mastering* series.

“The vision we have here—and this is from our director and dean—is that the library is the heart of the law school. So the library team has trained Student Services, the faculty assistants, Career Services, our academic skills faculty and others on how to use our resources.”



BECKA RICH
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR
Shepard Broad
College of Law,
Panza Maurer
Law Library

Becka Rich, senior associate library director, sees study aids as key to student success. She noted, “One of the biggest contributions the library can make in saving students money, helping them succeed in their classes and preparing them to pass the bar is to acquire and promote study aids for the students to use.”

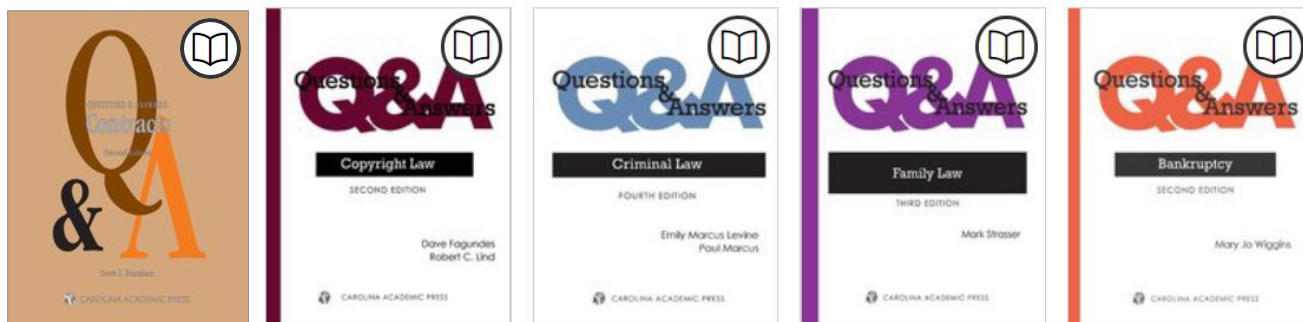
Despite convenient technology and helpful resources, the digital library did not gain strong traction right away. One factor: the launch happened well into the fall semester—at a time when not many students and faculty were ready to explore its capabilities. Rich teamed with Beth Parker, assistant director of operations and collections, and they sprang into action. Working with the library staff, they promoted LexisNexis Digital Library to supporting departments, faculty and student users to build awareness and usage. Their plan was based on the following key realizations.

- Building adoption of new technology in today’s complex educational environment calls for **planned outreach, timely reminders and varied training opportunities** so that all types of users can be aware and equipped as their needs arise.
- Digital capabilities need to be part of the law school’s overall initiative to engage every department in student success—with the **library at the center**.

“A lightbulb goes off and they realize, ‘This is so cool. Can I get this off campus?’ And the answer is yes. Circulation closes at 9 p.m. After that, there are no more print study guides. So they have to rely on digital at that point.”



BETH PARKER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF OPERATIONS AND
COLLECTIONS
Shepard Broad
College of Law,
Panza Maurer
Law Library



The Questions & Answers series of study aids, one of the most popular among NSU law students, is available anywhere, anytime via LexisNexis Digital Library.

Said Rich, “The vision we have here—and this is from our director and dean—is that the library is the heart of the law school. So the library team has trained Student Services, the faculty assistants, Career Services, our academic skills faculty and others on how to use our resources.”

The results have been positive. Said Rich, “We’ve had marketing professionals send us students who would benefit from the digital library. We’ve had alumni send us people. Faculty assistants have sent students to us. It really does take a village—the entire law school—to help our students succeed.”

Parker agreed: “It not only takes a village, but it takes everyone working in cooperation, every department that has some touchpoint with students.”

Parker emphasized the importance of providing students with very clear, specific guidance when they need it. “If you look at it in terms of how many databases schools subscribe to, students are overwhelmed. ... We have to promote the study aids and guide students, being clear about what the resource provides.”

When students come to the library and see a demo of the digital library just when they need it, many gain a greater appreciation of its value. Said Parker, “a lightbulb goes off and they realize, ‘This is so cool. Can I get this off campus?’ And the answer is yes. Circulation closes at 9 p.m. After that, there are no more print study guides. So they have to rely on digital at that point.”

“We call this tutorial the ‘2 a.m. option.’ If it’s 2 a.m. and there’s no librarian available, they still can figure out how to use the tool.”

—BECKA RICH
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Shepard Broad College of Law,
Panza Maurer Law Library

Best Practices for Driving Use of Your Digital Library

“To be successful, a digital library has to be used,” said Parker. “And to get to that, you have to promote it. If people don’t know it’s there, they’re not going to use it. We can’t depend on serendipity, per se, for them to find it like you can a book on a shelf. ... You also need to make it easy to get to.”

If you’re considering adding a digital library solution or you’d like to energize adoption, consider the following best practices shared by Rich and Parker.



LEARNING TO NAVIGATE

Orientation: The library director spends 45 minutes talking with students about how to use study guides and mentions the Q&A and *Understanding* series, both available via LexisNexis Digital Library. New students receive a library guide with digital library study aid access information.

Tours: A demo of the product is part of all tours for new students and new faculty. In addition, tour guides showing the College of Law to prospective students mention that the library has arranged for students to have study aids available online and cite the *Understanding* series as an example.



VISUAL MEDIA

Video: The reference librarians prepared a video for 2Ls and 3Ls demonstrating how to use the digital library. It’s posted on the Canvas course management system.

Slideshow in common student gathering area: As part of a monthly slideshow message rotation in the school’s atrium, the first database promotion of the year focuses on digital library access to the primary study aids.



IN-CLASS TIPS AND REMINDERS

Academic skills for 1Ls: Reference librarians promote the digital library during presentations in the school’s academic skills classes.

Other classes: Reference librarians give presentations and promote the digital library to law students, law and medicine students, paralegal students who are part of the College of Law and evening students.

Links from the course management system: Librarians remind faculty members that students don’t have to buy case books and study aids—they can check them out of the digital library. A link within a class’s page on the Canvas course management system gives students easy access during and after the course.

LexisNexis representative assistance: During the school’s orientation tour and throughout the year at a table in the law school atrium, the LexisNexis rep helps build awareness of LexisNexis Digital Library, as well as other LexisNexis products. When the rep is not in the atrium, students at the table often promote LexisNexis Digital Library.



RESOURCE GUIDE DOCUMENTS AND CATALOG INTEGRATION

Database library guide on the library home page:

This guide to all the library’s database offerings links to information about LexisNexis Digital Library and a tutorial. Said Rich, “We call this tutorial the ‘2 a.m. option.’ If it’s 2 a.m. and there’s no librarian available, they still can figure out how to use the tool.”

Specialized, librarian-curated resource guides for bar prep, clinics and academic success: These documents on the library home page link directly into study aids and practitioner eBooks in the digital library.

Library catalog integration: Parker has integrated LexisNexis Digital Library content into the school’s broader MACHine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) library records. If students search for a title like *Questions & Answers*, for example, the catalog will take them directly to the digital library. Students can use the catalog to look up a book by title or just type in the words *digital library* and access digital resources.



FACULTY OUTREACH

Email: When Parker orders a digital study aid or textbook, she emails professors so they can add links to the course management system.

Newsletter: Information about the digital library is included several times each semester in a newsletter for law school faculty and staff.

Faculty course: The library offers a faculty resources course with materials and reminders linking to the digital library.

Faculty liaison program: Librarians go into every faculty office and demonstrate how to use the digital library. Said Rich, “Having the faculty help promote it through our faculty liaison program made a big difference.” She added, “When I went to my faculty liaisons and showed them how to use the digital library, you could almost hear jaws drop. One of them said, ‘this is so amazing that you provide this service to our students.’”

Proven Results for the Library and Students

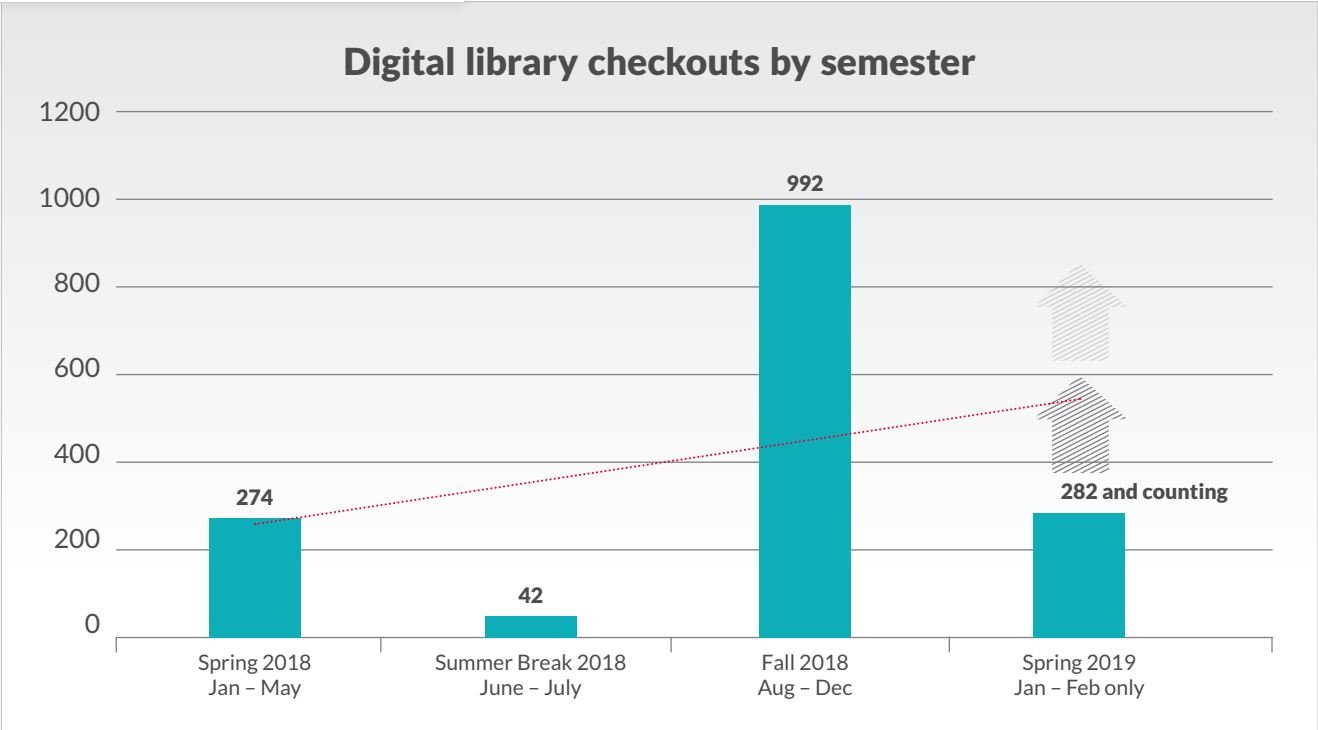
Reflecting on all the school's initiatives to promote the digital library, Rich stated, "You can see from our usage stats that this outreach and training is working."

In addition to increased usage, benefits gained via LexisNexis Digital Library include convenience and cost savings for the library and students. Said Rich, "Both faculty and students appreciate the convenience and cost savings. We have faculty who used to hesitate to assign these books in print because of the cost but will now assign them ... this is a win-win for everybody involved: Less work for our tech services department. And more access for our students and faculty."

"We should be spending our funds in a way that most effectively supports student success ... the students save money and view the library team as people who provide key information. That's my definition of success."

—BECKA RICH
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
 Shepard Broad College of Law,
 Panza Maurer Law Library

As reflected in total checkouts, in just over a year, 70 percent of faculty and students borrowed an eBook title from the Nova Southeastern digital library.



Promotion and training related to LexisNexis Digital Library enabled Shepard Broad College of Law to build strong usage. The first fall semester for the digital library peaked at 992 checkouts. (Spring 2019 stats are partial at time of publishing.)

Cost savings and convenience for the library: “In measuring this, we look at a combination of usage and cost/benefit ratio,” said Rich. The cost/benefit ratio measurement is based on answers to these questions:

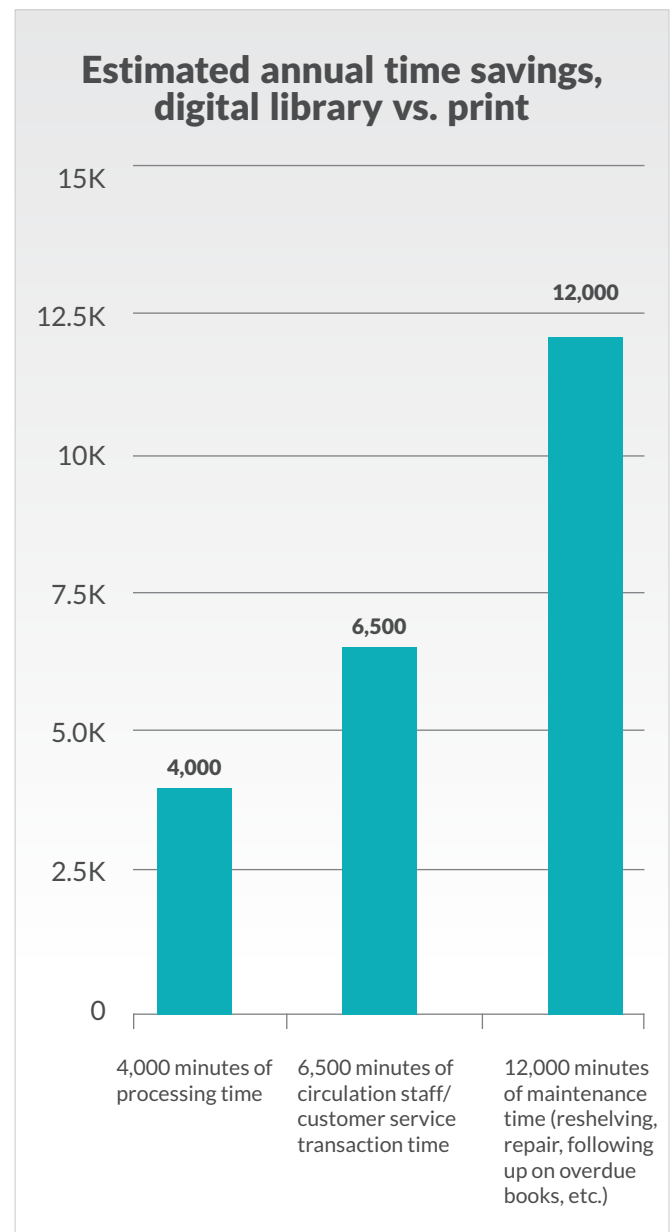
- **How much time** are we saving by having these resources online as opposed to the cost of processing physical books?
- **How much money** are we saving by not having to buy as many books?
- **How much** are the students saving?

Parker added, “It’s not just the processing of the books, but also the upkeep and man-hours to actually have somebody man a circulation desk and check these in and out by hand.”

The library team conservatively estimated this time savings based on their experience with LexisNexis Digital Library. With a work week of 37.5 hours, the savings amounts to 10 weeks of staff time that can now be spent more productively in assisting faculty and students.

Cost savings and convenience for law students: The library orders one copy of every required textbook in print form for students. And now, many are also available via eBook. The library also provides unlimited digital access to study aids. Some non-clinic law students use eBook practitioner materials when faculty require those titles, said Parker. Students may check a book out and read before they go to class so they no longer need to carry the book around.

Cost savings and convenience for clinic students: The value of remote access to books is significant for clinic students. Even with limited seats for practitioner titles, clinic students using the digital library have more access than they would if we had bought a print copy for the same purpose, said Rich. She added, “I’ve had clinic students use some of the practitioner materials in court when they were practicing. They’ve really liked having that opportunity.”



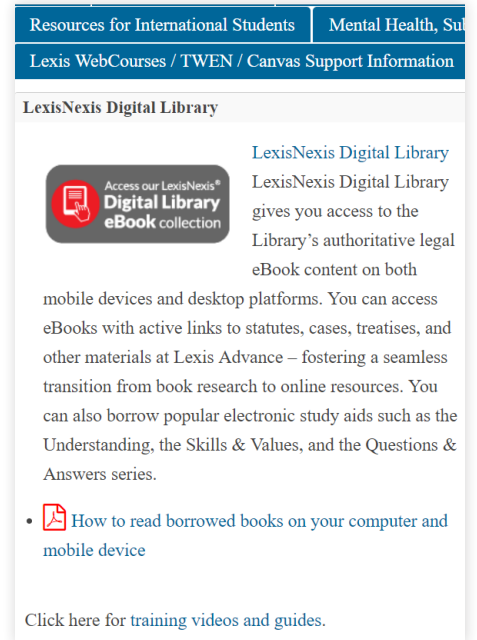
The library staff saves significant time managing digital tiles vs. print.

Cost savings and convenience for online students:

Numerous students in the school's online Master of Laws program benefit from digital access to required books without coming in to the library in person. Rich added, "So many of our students are part time and may live an hour or hour and a half away from here. Being able to access that reserve material online is a huge boon for them ... this also helps our clinic students who are placed all over the country doing their clinical work. Now they have access to more materials."

In addition to purchasing fewer books during the school year, students also benefit from the ability to check books out online before the semester begins. Said Rich, "Because of how financial aid works, students don't get access to financial aid for buying books until about a week before the semester starts. That's an extremely small amount of time before classes begin. But if they access their books online in advance of class to save money, they can review the books immediately."

Providing students with convenience and costs savings is a worthwhile use of library dollars, said Rich. "We live in an environment where our budget gets cut frequently. But things that help the students out also help us out. We should be spending our funds in a way that most effectively supports student success ... the students save money and view the library team as people who provide key information. That's my definition of success."



The screenshot shows a webpage header with navigation links: "Resources for International Students" and "Mental Health, Su...". Below that is "Lexis WebCourses / TWEN / Canvas Support Information". The main content area is titled "LexisNexis Digital Library" and features a logo that says "Access our LexisNexis® Digital Library eBook collection". The text explains that the library provides access to authoritative legal eBook content on both mobile devices and desktop platforms, with active links to statutes, cases, treatises, and other materials at Lexis Advance. It also mentions borrowing popular electronic study aids like "Understanding, the Skills & Values, and the Questions & Answers series." A bullet point with a document icon links to "How to read borrowed books on your computer and mobile device". At the bottom, there is a link for "training videos and guides."

The law school's database library guide includes a range of resources including this information and a LexisNexis Digital Library video tutorial link.



The banner features the NSU Florida logo (Shepard Broad College of Law, NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY) and the text "Panza Maurer Law Library Presents:". The main heading is "Database of the Month". Below this is the LexisNexis Digital Library eBook collection logo. To the right, a paragraph describes the library's access to authoritative legal eBook content on mobile and desktop platforms, with active links to statutes, cases, treatises, and other materials at Lexis Advance. It also mentions borrowing popular electronic study aids like "Understanding, the Skills & Values, and the Questions & Answers series." Below the text is a photo of a woman sitting at a desk with a laptop. At the bottom, a yellow box contains the instruction: "TO ACCESS: NovaCat > type 'LexisNexis Digital Library' in the search box, then click 'Search'".

Slideshow image promoting LexisNexis Digital Library in law school atrium.

Parker shared a strategic suggestion for other law library teams. “Because the director of our library and dean of the law school view the library as the heart of the law school, that puts us in a unique position among law libraries. We get the cooperation of all departments in promoting these materials,” Parker said. “This is something law library directors at other schools might want to think about: ‘How can I put myself in the position to get that cooperation?’”

Next Steps

Since digital library usage is up and the word is out, more students may be looking for specific help when they are on-site. With that in mind, the library is considering adding a digital library walk-up station.

The library team is also considering putting stickers on shelves regarding books available digitally to continue building more awareness.

Are print books going away? Rich expects to keep providing some practitioner books in print for the foreseeable future to meet alumni needs. But in time the library plans to eliminate print study guides completely since the digital library provides unlimited access.

“We used to have a fairly extensive print study aid collection,” said Rich. “But that’s both expensive and hard to keep up. Honestly, the study guides are more difficult to administer in print. There’s always a student who needs to keep a book longer when we have only one copy. But with the digital library titles, everyone gets access and everybody wins.”

She added, “The feedback we’ve gotten is that this is really a huge convenience and cost savings. Students and faculty are very grateful that we have it.”

About Nova Southeastern and Shepard Broad College of Law

The Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Shepard Broad College of Law offers degree and certificate programs for law students, paralegals, practicing lawyers and professionals expanding their knowledge of law. NSU also offers a Law Leadership Academy helping students develop skills for successfully practicing law through course work, workshops and live client experiences integrated through a specialized curriculum.

About LexisNexis Legal & Professional

LexisNexis Legal & Professional is a leading global provider of legal, regulatory and business information and analytics that help professional customers increase productivity, improve decision-making and outcomes, and advance the rule of law around the world. As a digital pioneer, the company was the first to bring legal and business information online with its Lexis® and Nexis® services. LexisNexis Legal & Professional, which serves customers in more than 130 countries with 10,000 employees worldwide, is part of RELX, a global provider of information and analytics for professional and business customers across industries.

The opinions expressed within this article represent customer opinions. LexisNexis believes the experience conveyed in this article generally represents the experience found with other similar customer situations. However, each customer will have its own subjective goals and requirements and will subscribe to different combinations of LexisNexis services to suit those specific goals and requirements. This article may not be deemed to create any warranty or representation that any other customer’s experience will be the same as the experience identified herein. LexisNexis uses the customer’s trademarks herein with the customer’s permission.

EXPERIENCE AT A GLANCE

Law school profile: Offering JD programs, dual degrees, an online Master of Laws program for practicing attorneys, an MS in Law for nonlawyers and a Paralegal Certificate program, the Shepard Broad College of Law provides flexible legal education to meet wide-ranging student needs. The school is part of Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Business situation: With full-time, part-time and online programs, the Shepard Broad College of Law has many students living more than an hour away and others located across the country working in law clinics. Flexible access to course materials is essential.

Solution: The dean has encouraged faculty and staff to view the Panza Maurer Law Library as central to student success. The library team works with other departments to provide ongoing outreach, resource training and guidance to make sure all types of students can access vital resources when they need them.

PRODUCT SUMMARY

LexisNexis® Digital Library provides a library management solution with legal eBooks for required study guides and practitioner materials. Students have access from anywhere—online or offline—even when the library is closed. This offering provides a book-like reading format with annotation and highlighting tools and links to the Lexis Advance service.

