

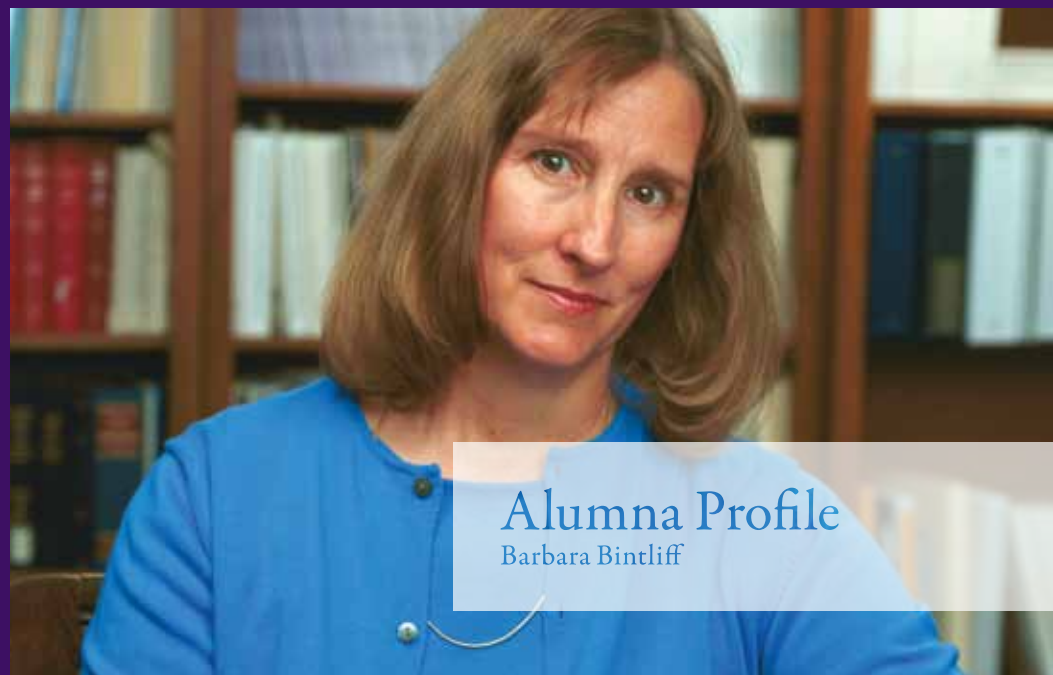
Law Librarianship at the UW

Transforming Lives and Building Careers

Law librarians tap into the power of information to support the mission of courts, federal and state units of government, law schools, corporations, and law firms. Over the course of four consecutive quarters, students in the Law Librarianship Program at the University of Washington Information School can learn to bring their background in law together with powerful new skills and theoretical lenses that will transform their careers. As graduates, they use their leadership and vision to design and create tools and services people need to find sources of information effectively.

The UW Information School is the top-rated law librarianship program in the U.S. because it offers the highest level of preparation for a career in law librarianship. The curriculum blends a strong theoretical foundation in the principles of information science with the specialized legal research and administration background students will need to thrive as law librarians after graduation. An internship allows students to further build their portfolios and enhances their qualifications for securing their first job in law librarianship after completing the program.

Law Librarianship students at the UW iSchool make information work.



Alumna Profile
Barbara Bintliff

Barbara Bintliff is Director of the University of Colorado's William A. Wise Law Library, a position she has held for 20 years. She holds an appointment as the Nicholas Rosenbaum Professor of Law at the University, and was President of the American Association of Law Libraries from 2001 – 2002.

After UW Law, I was with a law firm for a while, but went into librarianship because it offered an alternative career to law practice yet allowed me to use my legal training. I liked law librarianship's emphasis on research and the organization of materials, the opportunities to teach and interact with students, and the ability to publish my own research findings.

The best part is that I get to reinvent myself every six or eight years—I never lose interest in the field because it changes constantly. An extraordinary mix of electronic and print resources are now available, and we have been able to rethink the services we offer, how we teach, and our operating procedures as our resources change. Recently we've incorporated social networking tools into both our technical and public services.

Law librarianship also has offered me opportunities outside the law building: to consult, to travel, and to work with professional associations. Helping people understand how law libraries fit within the educational process and designing programs that incorporate law libraries and legal information into a larger academic program has been especially rewarding. Our expertise is much sought-after in this information-rich world.

Law and legal education used to operate in information silos, but as the benefits of using information from other disciplines become better known, we work with other types of libraries and resources to meet our users' information needs. This is yet another way that law librarianship is changing and remaining vital. We in the U.S. work with national and international library groups on joint committees and initiatives in information law and policy, and on government relations issues.

In law librarianship, you never stop learning and facing challenges. It is an exciting and rewarding profession.

#1 rated law librarianship program *US News & World Report*

The Program

Professional Preparation – Law Library Intern Program

As part of their preparation, students are encouraged to gain real law library experience by working part-time, either in the Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library or King County Law Library in downtown Seattle. In addition to doing reference work, interns gain exceptional experiences in collection development, technical services, government documents, library systems, and circulation.

The Intern Program gives Law Librarianship students a first-hand look at professional practice as a law librarian. Internships also allow students to develop important mentoring relationships with library staff.

Map Your Career in Law Librarianship

Prospective students may find it useful to speak directly to Program Director and Faculty Advisor, Professor Penny Hazelton. She can answer questions about the field, provide direction for a proposed course of study, and discuss and evaluate your objectives. Lawyers interested in the program are urged to talk with practicing law librarians as well and to review the American Association of Law Libraries web site discussing education and careers in law librarianship, aallnet.org/services/.

Graduates hold positions at:

Yale Law School
Columbia Law School
Orange County Law Library
University of Michigan Law School
Georgetown University Law Center
Utah State Law Library

Law Librarianship without a Law Degree

Not all law librarians are lawyers. In fact, less than 40 percent of all law librarians possess both the Juris Doctor (JD) degree and a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree.

While the Law MLIS Program is designed to prepare lawyers to serve as law librarians, all of the courses in Law Librarianship Program (with one exception) are open to any student enrolled in the Residential MLIS program. Legal research classes and a fieldwork placement are highly recommended.

For more information, visit
www.ischool.washington.edu/mlis/law.aspx.

Contact Us

Law Librarianship Program

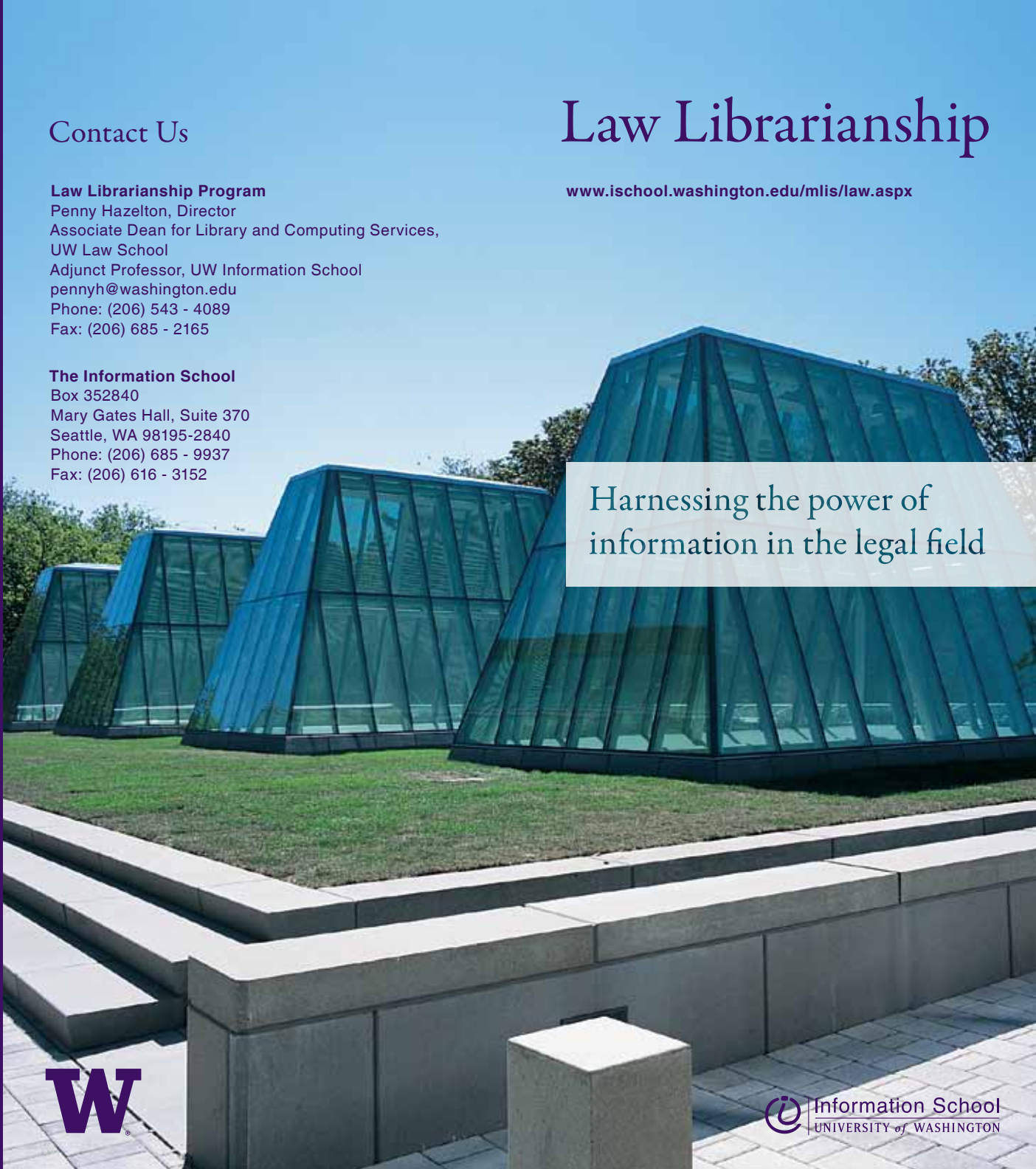
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Law Librarianship

www.ischool.washington.edu/mlis/law.aspx



Harnessing the power of
information in the legal field

