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The Kresge Law Library in Blessed Hall of Law. Here a talented Edmonds, who was appointed the sixth librarian in summer 1964, welcomed 640,000 volumes.

In these early years development of the law library’s collection and staff was slow. The Law School did not appoint the first law librarian, John Whitman, until 1925. His selection coincided with the Law School’s accreditation by the American Association of Law Schools. By 1930, after more than 60 years of existence, the library had only grown to 10,000 volumes. This modest collection did not require a large staff.

In fact, in 1942, a single librarian, Lora Lashbrook, oversaw the entire operation, while serving concurrently as teacher of legal research methodology; law school registrar, and secretary to both the dean and the faculty. Marie Lawrence succeeded to the post of librarian in 1945. She guided the collection for almost 25 years. At her retirement the library stood at 69,000 volumes — still quite small by American Bar Association standards.

The enlargement of the library’s physical space in 1973 came under the leadership of the new librarian, Kathleen C. Farmann. Expansion and increased funding of the library coincided with the Law School’s accreditation by the American Bar Association.

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