



# LiRN

Legal Information and Resource Network

## Annual Impact Report 2022

## Key Strategic Impacts for 2022

Strategic Priority	Key Impacts
<p><b>o</b> <b>n</b> <b>e</b></p> <p>LiRN is focused on the needs of courthouse library users, both now and in the future</p>	<p>Advanced equity of access to legal resources in Ontario through <b>e-LiRN</b>, a suite of 9 electronic databases available in all courthouse libraries</p> <p>Added over 50 <b>upgraded computers</b> for library users and staff to take full advantage of e-LiRN</p>
<p><b>t</b> <b>w</b> <b>o</b></p> <p>LiRN supports libraries and librarians</p>	<p>Supported library staff's professional development with our home-grown <b>Learn with LiRN curriculum and conference</b></p> <p>Delivered clarity and consistency in HR practices with <b>HR Guidelines and Sample Documentation</b> including role descriptions and independently generated salary range benchmarks</p> <p>Communicated LiRN's expectations in <b>new services &amp; responsibilities policies</b></p>
<p><b>t</b> <b>h</b> <b>r</b> <b>e</b> <b>e</b></p> <p>LiRN collaborates with others working to provide legal information and library service prioritizing trust and respect</p>	<p>Engaged with stakeholders to develop <b>new services &amp; responsibilities policies</b></p>
<p><b>f</b> <b>o</b> <b>u</b> <b>r</b></p> <p>LiRN makes evidence-based decisions</p>	<p>Increased data available to make evidence-based decisions by instituting <b>new usage statistics collection policies</b></p>



E-LiRN

E-LiRN and Library Statistics

Learn with LiRN

New Network Policies and Guidelines

Acknowledgements



# Free access to subscription databases at *all* Ontario courthouse libraries!

## Increased Availability Across Network = Increased Equity of Access

Resource	Availability	
	2022	2021
<b>NEW</b> LexisNexis Practical Guidance	100%	25%
<b>NEW</b> Westlaw CriminalSource	100%	14%
<b>NEW</b> Westlaw FamilySource	100%	14%
<b>NEW</b> LexisNexis Estates and Trusts Source	100%	8%
<b>NEW</b> vLex Essentials of Canadian Law (incl. Irwin Law)	100%	2%
<b>NEW</b> vLex VINCENT AI Legal Research Assistant	100%	0%
Lexis Advance – Quicklaw	100%	100%
Hein Online (provided by the Great Library)	100%	100%
Provincial CPD Archives (Provided by the LSO)	100%	100%

### Then ...

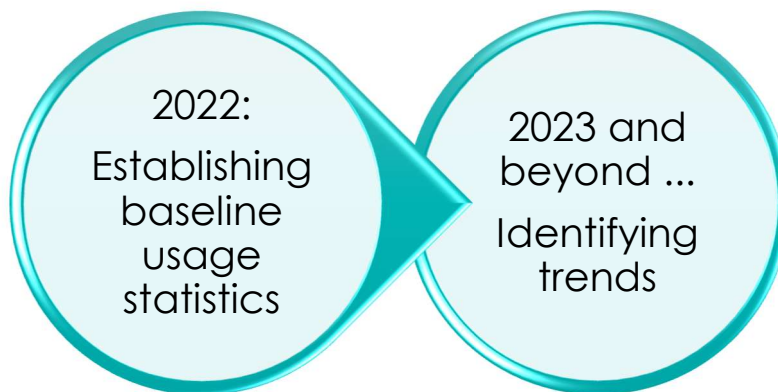
In 2021, few electronic resources were available across the network. Resources commonplace in mid-size and large firms were largely out of reach for lawyers in smaller firms who relied on courthouse libraries. Within the LiRN network, libraries in larger, urban centres had more access to additional electronic resources that were cost-prohibitive to smaller libraries.

### Now

Expanding electronic resources with e-LiRN has increased equity of access to these resources across Ontario. [Learn more on our updated website.](#)

## E-LiRN and Library Statistics

LiRN worked with vendors and library staff to create statistics collection protocols, giving us data to support evidence-based decisions that will result in benefits to the system. This data also draws a clearer picture of how resource centres are valued and relied upon across the system.



It will take 2-3 years for a clearer picture of e-LiRN and library use to emerge. We established e-LiRN this year and much of the year was devoted to training and promotion. Meanwhile, pandemic closures and pandemic-related measures such as virtual hearings have had a big impact on in-library foot traffic and physical collection use.

We will continue to monitor e-LiRN and library usage as the pandemic impacts on legal practice settle into a new normal, analyzing year-over-year results for trends and using that data to design a network that meets current and future user needs.

## e-LiRN Statistics

The services provided by Thomson Reuters (Westlaw), Lexis Nexis, and vLex alone would cost a sole practicing lawyer almost \$8,300 per year if purchased individually. The negative impact on access to justice and the affordability of legal services by shifting this cost onto sole practitioners and small firms would be significant. (FOLA)

### 100+ Training Sessions



- LiRN and library staff arranged over 100 vendor-led training for library staff and library users, providing crucial information on how to get the most out of LiRN
- Many training sessions offered accredited CPD hours to lawyer attendees in many sessions
- LiRN developed and distributed Training Guides for all resources

### Promoting e-LiRN



- On-site signs, professionally designed, produced, and paid for by vendors at LiRN's request
- Email, social media posts, and website announcements (central and local)
- Advertisements in the ORs, professionally designed, produced, and paid for by vendors at LiRN's request

### Baseline Year-One Usage Stats for New Electronic Resources

LexisNexis Practical Guidance: Total document downloads	7,400+
Westlaw Source Products: Total searches	14,000+
vLex Remote Access Pilot Project	88 Participants

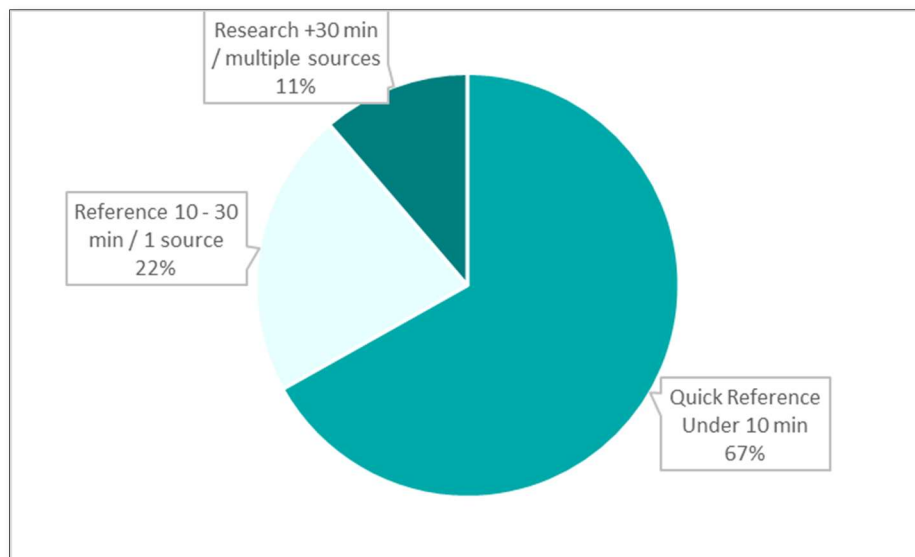
## Library Use

### Collection Use

- 4,600+ Items signed out
- 12,000+ items re-shelved
- 460+ items shared within the network through interlibrary loans

### Research and Reference

- 15,400+ questions answered



# Training delivered by library staff and funded by LiRN\*



## **LIBRARY RESOURCES TRAINING**

- ✓ **1450+** spontaneous, hands-on and individual training sessions
- ✓ **32** formally organized training sessions provided to **1400+ attendees**
- ✓ **496 hours** developing pathfinders (a.k.a. library guides and aids)



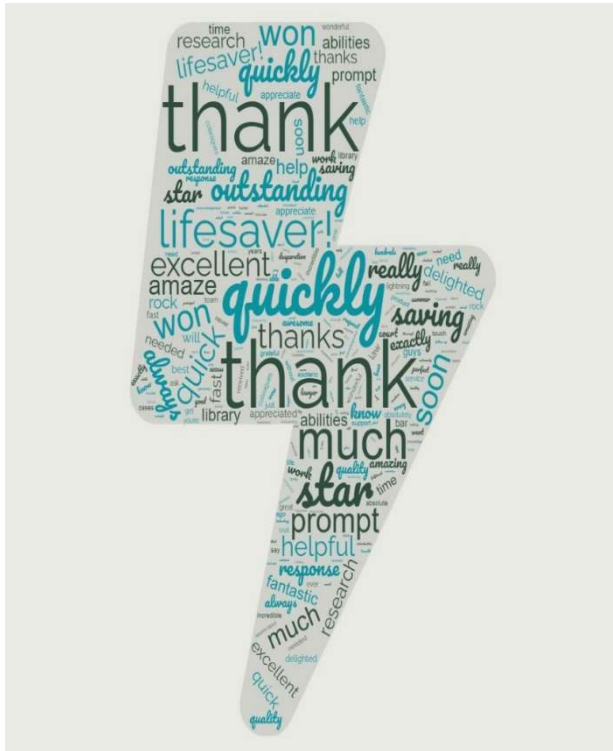
## **CPD**

- ✓ **220 replays of CPD** sessions designed by accredited organizations provided to **1760+ attendees**
- ✓ **56** original CPD sessions designed and provided to **1,300+ attendees**

\*Please note that many Law Associations deliver additional CPD training that is not funded by LiRN and therefore not included in this report.



**Numbers cannot tell the full story. Here is a taste of user feedback - showing the huge impact library staff and resources have on courthouse library users.**



Word Cloud derived from feedback received by library staff

*I want you to know that your work, this service, is incredible*

*Thank you for all your help ... Your research skills are amazing, and you are very fast! You also genuinely cared for me (as you do for everyone) and provided delicious yogurt and snacks which ended up "saving my life" too. **HUGE THANKS FOR EVERYTHING BIG AND SMALL!***

*Well stocked law libraries, served by trained law librarians, are important.*

*Now that I am setting up my own practice, I know where to go - to the court library!*



A thank you gift of flowers and cupcakes sent to library staff from a local firm

**You guys are *the absolute best!***

## Learn with LiRN

Continuing professional development for librarians is a must. The resources and information available to lawyers is continuously growing. A law librarian's job is to guide users through fields of chaff to find wheat.

There is a lot of information and data library staff must stay stay current on to be effective.

LiRN has supplemented external learning opportunities with a home-grown, Zoom-based professional development curriculum – designed and delivered by staff for staff. The curriculum culminates in an annual in-person conference.

**A TRAINED LIBRARIAN IS A POWERFUL SEARCH ENGINE WITH A HEART.**

Sarah McIntyre, Author & Illustrator

**LiRN HAS DONE MORE FOR US IN THE 32 YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN IN THE COURTHOUSE LIBRARY SYSTEM THAN ANYONE ELSE HAS EVER DONE FOR US.**



**Learn with LiRN**

**Curriculum:**

**9** remote programs  
average of **85+ %** attendance

- Intro to Legal Research
- Forms and Precedents
- Legislation
- Welcoming Change Into Your Life
- Working with Difficult Customers
- Working with Difficult Personalities
- LiRN Financial Reporting
- LiRN Stats Reporting
- e-LiRN Tips Roundtable

**Conference:**

**8** Sessions  
**90+ %** attendance

- Current Awareness
- Drawing Lawyers Back to Courthouse Libraries
- Social Media Tips
- Learn about LIBIB
- Coping with Vicarious Trauma and Burnout
- LiRN Update and welcome from the Board
- Vendor presentations and exhibit hall
- Social event sponsored by vendor

## Consultation and Clarity: New Network Policies and Guidelines

This year, LiRN addressed a lack of clarity in a few areas:

- What are LiRN's minimum expectations for library services that should be offered and the management responsibilities that need to be executed to properly run a courthouse library?
- Many Law Associations offer additional services and assign additional responsibilities. What is library work (funded by LiRN) and what is Law Association work (funded by the Law Association)?
- What type of HR policies and practices does LiRN expect to be in place, and can LiRN provide sample HR documentation?

We consulted with many stakeholders to draft policies answering these questions, including:

- The Federation of Ontario Law Associations
- The Law Society of Ontario
- The Toronto Lawyer's Association
- Law Association Presidents
- The Ontario Courthouse Library Association
- Library Advisory Team

### Consultations

**100+ Hours**  
of consultation  
meetings

**8**  
written  
responses

**4 Months**  
of consultation

The resulting policies and guidelines, passed in December of 2022, include a 2-year transitional period with a required review to make sure that they work in practice.

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**Core Library  
Services and  
Library  
Management  
Responsibilities  
Policy**

Services that should be  
available in all  
courthouse libraries

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**Additional  
Services and  
Responsibilities  
Policy**

Library work vs  
association work

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**Network  
Library Staff  
Employment  
Guideines**

HR best practices

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**Sample HR  
Documentaion**

Documents that Law  
Associations may use to  
assist in their HR practices

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## Acknowledgements

### LiRN extends its appreciation to:

- Library staff, for working tirelessly to provide excellent service to users across the province.
- Our shareholders, the Law Society of Ontario, the Federation of Ontario Law Associations, and the Toronto Lawyer's Association, for working with us to create a more modern library network
- Law Associations, for operating courthouse libraries and giving their time and thoughtful participation in consultations to help create a more modern network
- Our vendors, for working with us to promote the new resources now available in courthouse libraries across Ontario
- And the lawyers of Ontario, who fund the network, for using the resources and services to benefit themselves and their clients

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**THANK YOU!**

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