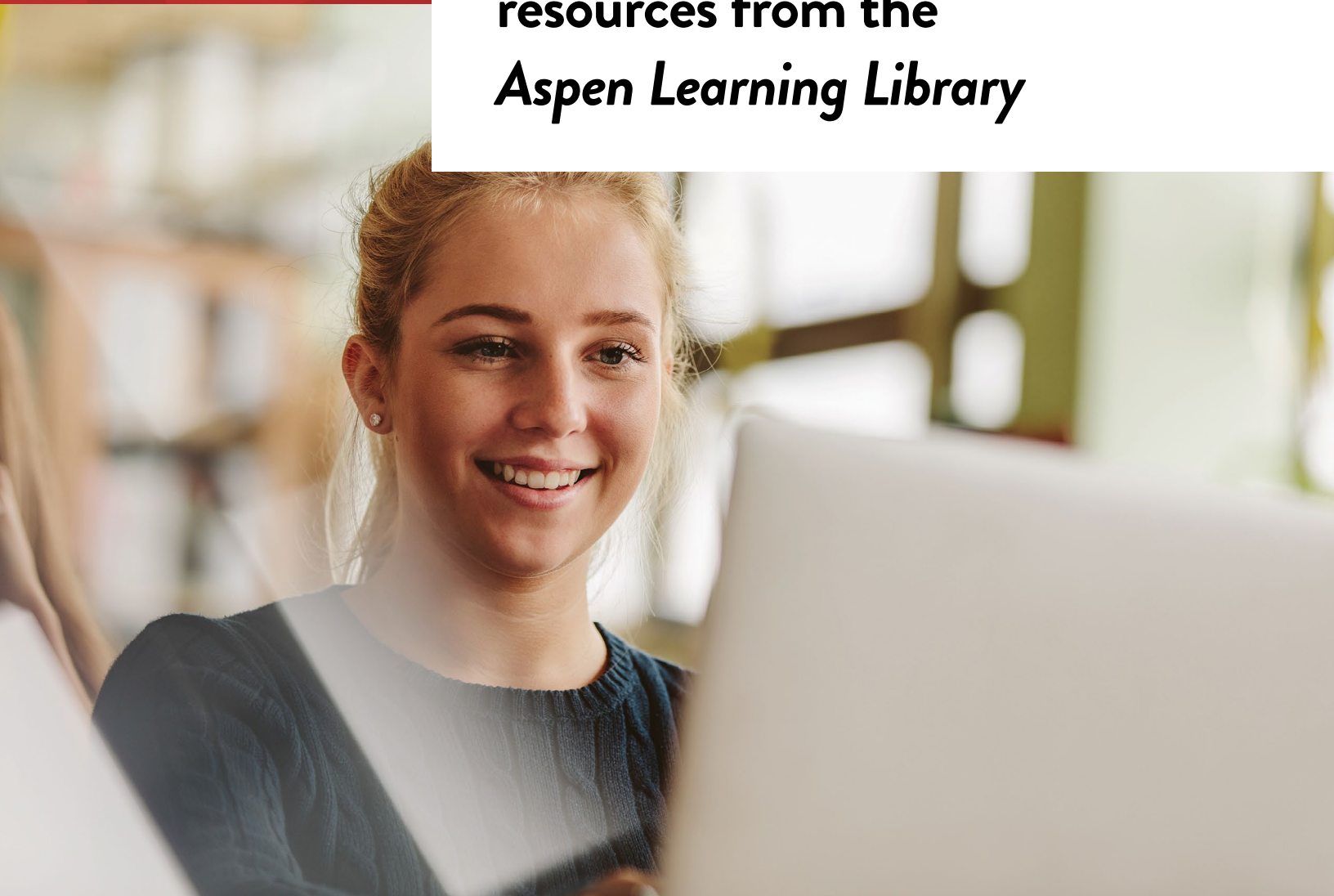




**Maximizing the library's
impact with student-centered
resources from the
*Aspen Learning Library***



Maximizing the library's impact with student-centered resources from the *Aspen Learning Library*

SUMMARY

In an effort to choose more student-centric resources, as well as diversify their study aid offerings, the University of Idaho College of Law subscribed to the *Aspen Learning Library*. The impact of subscribing is improved accessibility, increased students' confidence levels, and offered modern-day functionality and titles that cater to a variety of learning styles.

Background

Stacy Etheredge is the Law Library Director and Associate Professor of Law at the University of Idaho College of Law. A few years ago, Etheredge had growing concerns about the library offering only one publisher's study aid. Knowing the importance of having materials from multiple sources that cater to students' varied learning styles, she and her team considered subscribing to a second study aid library.

The library already had purchased print versions of various Aspen study aid titles—*Examples & Explanations*, the *Emanuel CrunchTime* series, the *Inside* series, and *Glannon Guides*—but staff knew that providing digital versions of these titles would give so much more accessibility to a growing student body. This was especially important as the law school has two locations within the state.

Above all, Etheredge and her colleagues felt strongly about giving more to the student body. “We wanted to do something more for our students.” She recalls, “We felt like we were behind the times, and we wanted to focus on resources that would have a direct impact on the students.” Knowing that not all students could afford to buy study aid materials, Etheredge and her colleagues agreed that purchasing a school subscription to the *Aspen Learning Library* was the best choice. Even with a severe budget cut that came the following year, the library decided to keep the *Aspen Learning Library* because of its positive impact on students.

EDUCATOR

Stacy Etheredge

SCHOOL

University of Idaho College of Law,
Boise and Moscow, ID

PRODUCT IN USE

Aspen Learning Library

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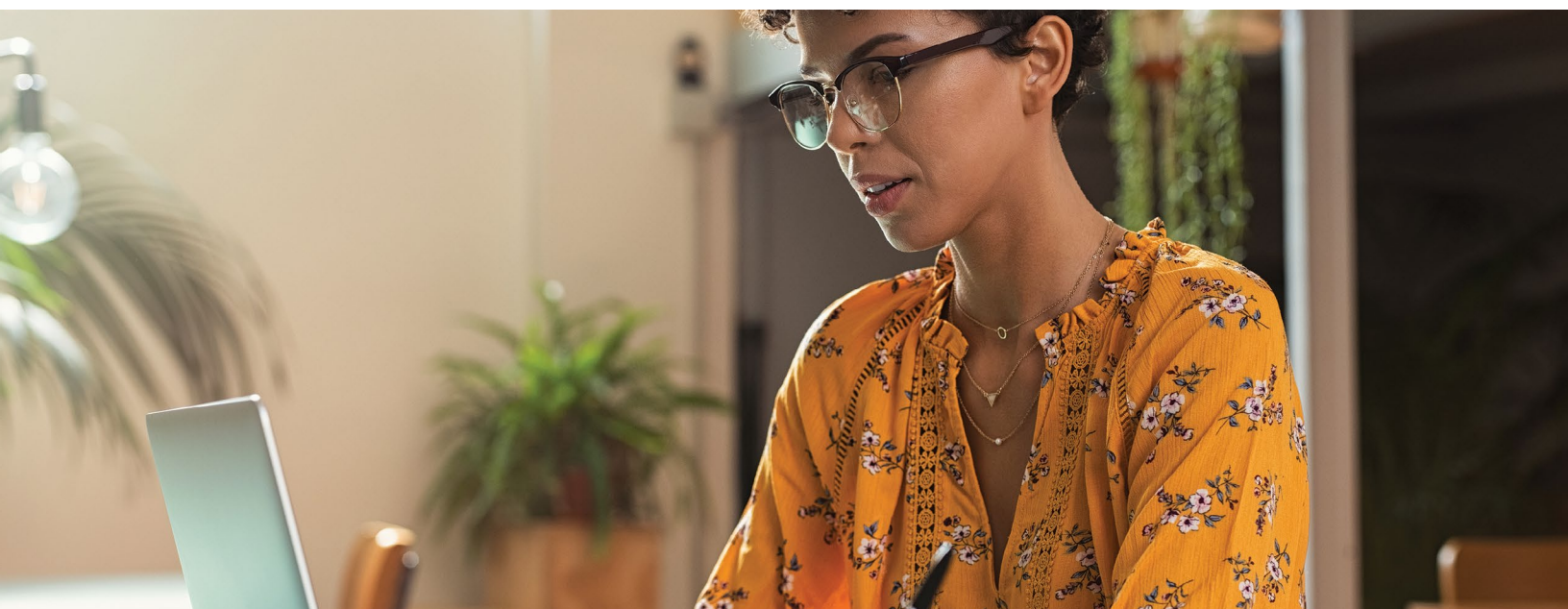
– Stacy Etheredge,
University of Idaho College of Law

Implementation

At the beginning of the fall semester, the library has a table in the school lobby where students can stop by, ask questions, pick up information packets, and learn about library services, including study aids. Librarians may give quick demos to show students how to register and log in. Students must be on campus within IP range to register for an *Aspen Learning Library* account, after which they can log in remotely.

During orientation, the library has 15 minutes to present and highlight their resources. The library emails students at the start of the year to provide information about the available study aids and how to access them. Reminder emails are sent approaching midterms and finals.

On the library's [website](#), the *Aspen Learning Library* is included on the [Research Databases A-Z list](#). *Aspen Learning Library* titles are also linked and searchable from the library's online catalog. At the checkout desk, flyers promoting the study aid library are available for students to take.



Academic Success

At the University of Idaho College of Law, 1L students are required to take a one-credit Academic Skills Lab their first semester. Special professors teach the course and cover basic legal skills, including how to write a case brief, how to outline, and more. One week of the course features a librarian who presents a “show and tell” of all the ways the library can help students succeed. Once again, study aids are mentioned as a valuable resource to students.

Academic success professors meet with first-year students individually throughout the year. They help students determine their learning style(s) and make recommendations on the resources that will help them the most. Finally, the [Academic Success Office](#) helps students maximize their law school success through academic counseling, skills instruction, academic advising, and bar preparation.

Impact

As someone who calls herself “not particularly tech-savvy,” Etheredge declares, “I personally find the *Aspen Learning Library* extremely user-friendly. The presentation is clean and elegant, and it is organized in a way that appeals to my librarian’s heart.” Furthermore, says Etheredge, “Having an administrator dashboard where we can go in and pull stats and see usage is pure gold.”

Regarding the impact for students, Etheredge knows that first-year students can easily become confused during class. “It really helps to know there are study aids out there that give low-stakes opportunities to practice. Students can answer questions, spend time writing out short-answer responses, and use a multitude of resources that explain the material and help them prepare for exams.” She continues, “I honestly think students’ confidence levels benefit from having the study aids. Knowing the study aids are available when they need them is a boost, but their confidence levels rise even more when they use the study aids, practice, and make the most out of the resource.”



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College of Law*

Etheredge shares that students appreciate the functionality of the *Aspen Learning Library*. “They love the highlighting, the ability to take notes and bookmark their favorites. They love that they can read materials offline. There are apps for their smartphones and tablets. It’s customizable to them and to what they need.” Etheredge and her staff always make a point of telling students that the *Aspen Learning Library* is a study aid (emphasis on aid), and that what the professors say is most important. She encourages students to augment the study aid by adding in notes from class lectures.

A huge benefit, according to Etheredge, are the options that the *Aspen Learning Library* offers for different learning styles, in both the titles available as well as the formats. Etheredge notes that titles with the audio and/or video functionality are very popular amongst students. “To me there’s just the right number of series available for students to get a handle on, and each series is unique.” She continues, “Students love the essay questions in *Friedman’s Emanuel CrunchTime* is to-the-point and offers wonderful flowcharts. Some series are more textual, like *Inside* and *Glannon*. Then of course, *Examples & Explanations* has its hypos, and finally there’s *Emanuel Law Outlines*, which is just what it says it is.” Essentially, there’s something to fit everyone’s specific needs at various times throughout the semester.

Conclusion

To other law librarians who are considering subscribing to a study aid, Etheredge shares the following, “If you’ve made the decision that you want to shift more of your budget to resources that directly speak to students, there are so many benefits to subscribing to the *Aspen Learning Library*. It’s cost-effective, and it is beautifully easy to use. The functionality is great, the titles are outstanding, and it makes an impact on the entire student body. Subscribing to the *Aspen Learning Library* has added a new dimension to what our library has to offer.”

Etheredge reports positive feedback from the institution regarding the ways the law library is responding to the needs of the students and becoming more student-centric. Moving forward, Etheredge’s goal is to reach out more to students and develop creative ways to get the library’s resources known even more to students.

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