

AMERICA'S FIRST LAW LIBRARY • FOUNDED 1802

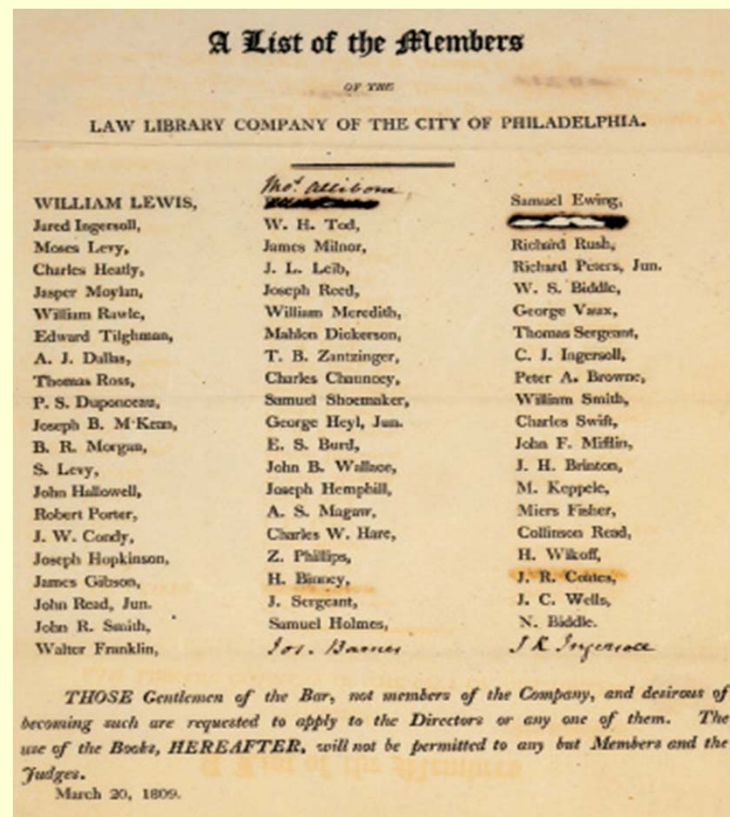
Jenkins

LAW LIBRARY

Where tradition meets technology...

The History of Jenkins Law Library

The Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia, formed in 1802 by 71 Philadelphia lawyers, was the first law library in the United States.



An early list of members from 1809

The History of Jenkins Law Library

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia were both located in the Old State House, which we now know as Independence Hall.



Independence Hall
[formerly the Old State House]

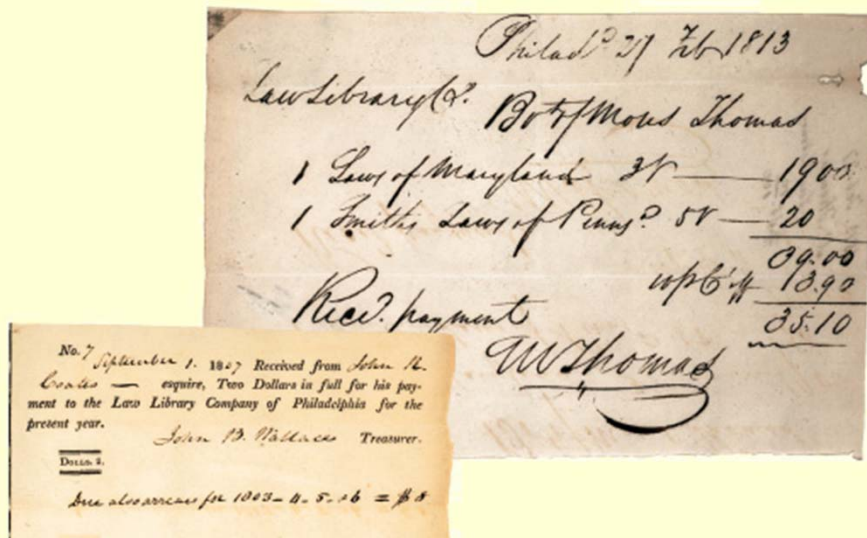
The History of Jenkins Law Library

Many attorneys lived in the surrounding area, with their offices located on the first floor of their homes.



Office & Home of Horace Binney

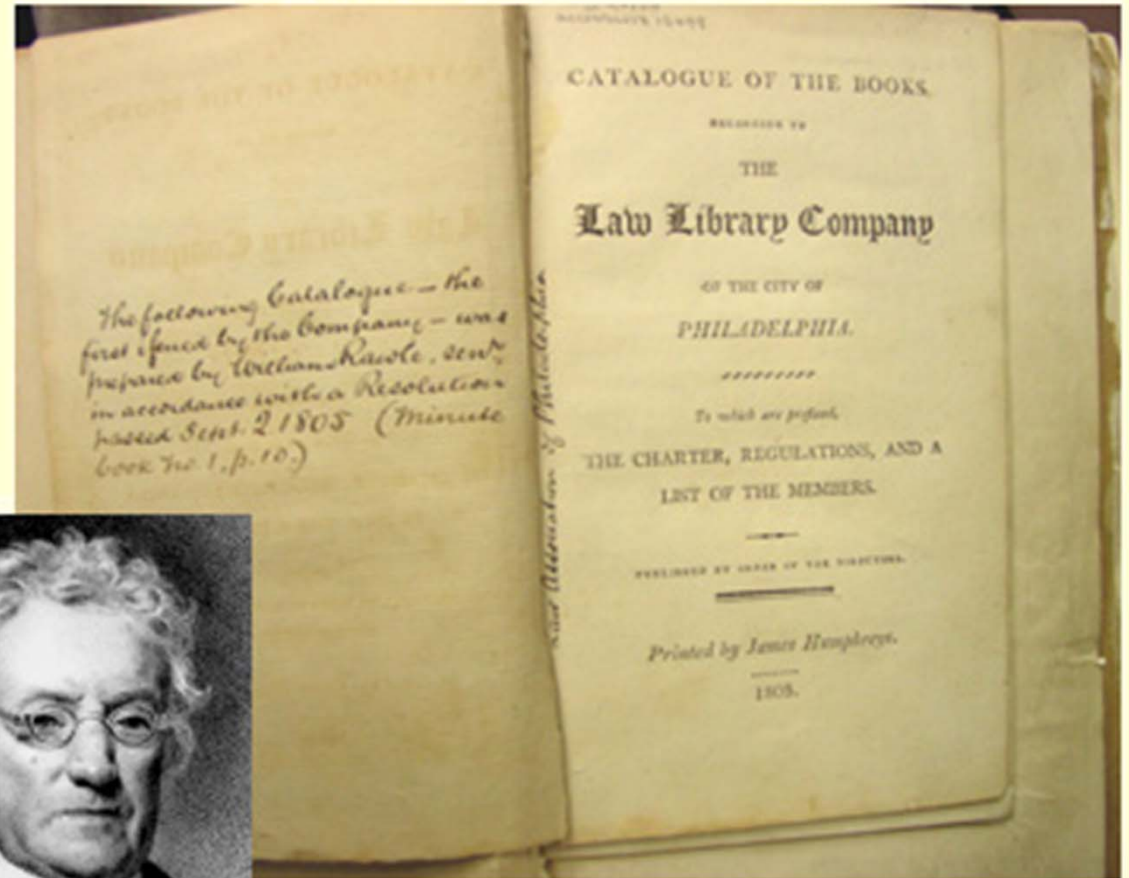
Only eleven volumes of American reports were in print. Books were rare and precious commodities.



Receipts for book purchases

The History of Jenkins Law Library

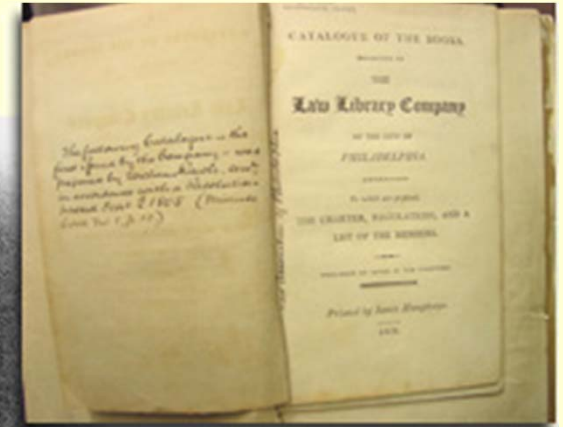
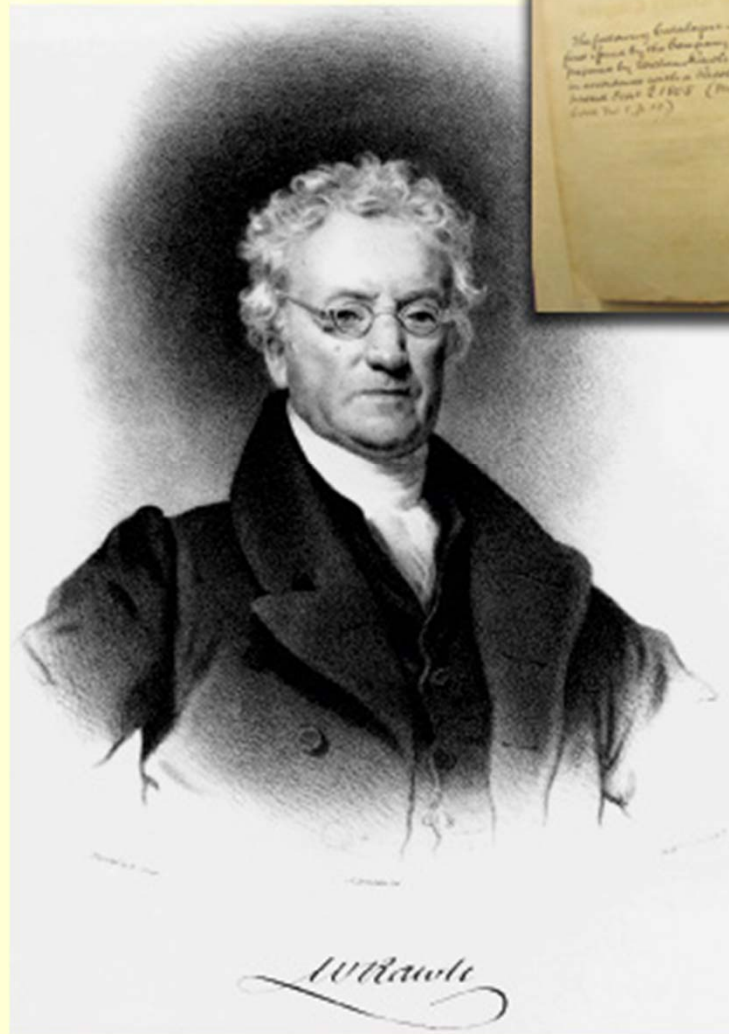
By 1805, the Law Library Company had published its first catalog, listing 391 titles, the most important law books of the time.



The first printed catalog of law books.

The History of Jenkins Law Library

This catalog was the first law catalog published in America. It was put together by William Rawle, Esquire, one of the Library's founders.



William Rawle, Esquire

The History of Jenkins Law Library

Did you know?

The Law Library Company was ranked among the major law libraries in the country during the early 19th and 20th centuries, its collection rivaling that of the top law school libraries.



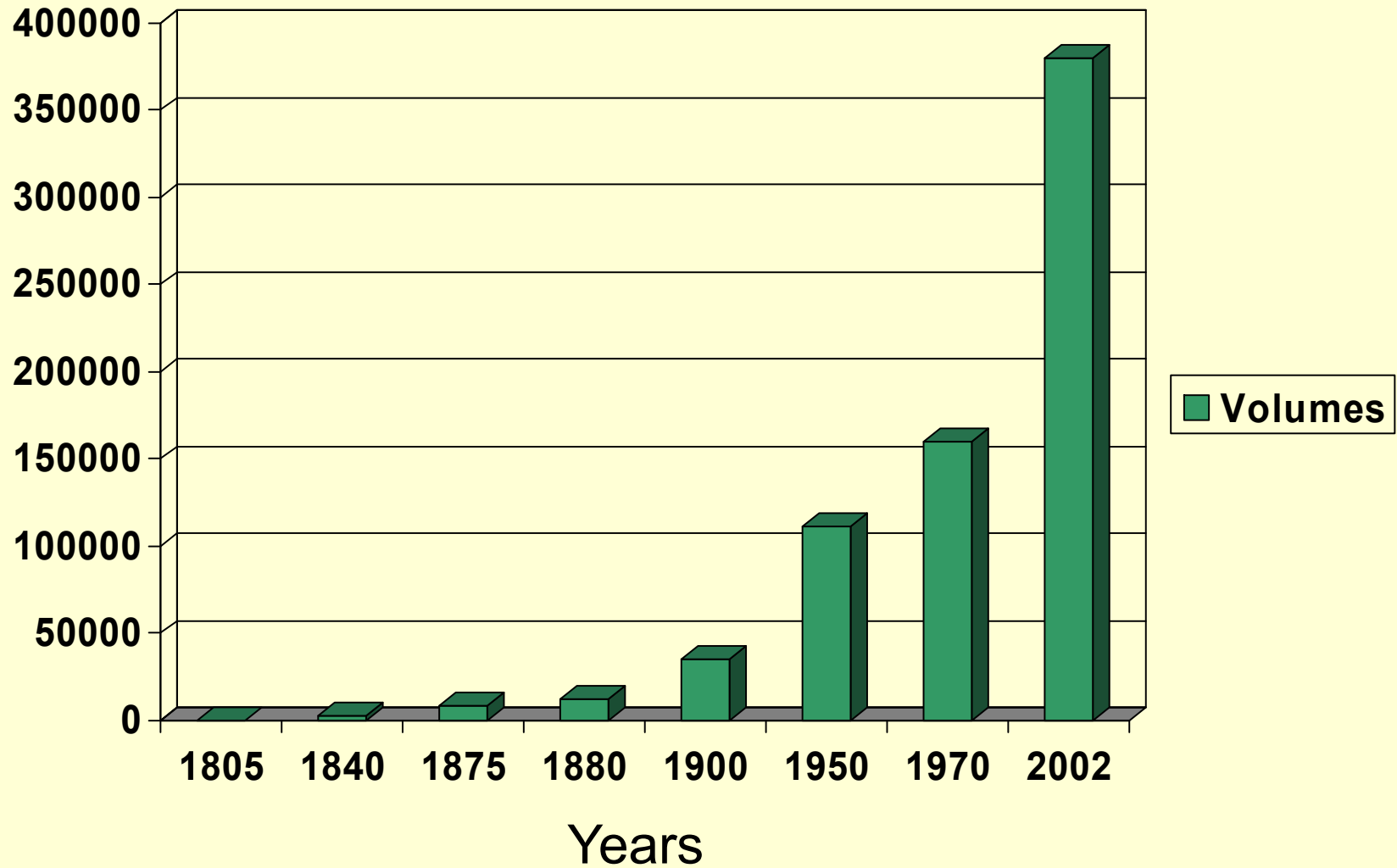
The History of Jenkins Law Library

Since the first catalog, by William Rawle, there have been two very notable innovations to the Library cataloging system.

- ♦ In 1889, the Library created a card catalog - the only one among larger law libraries.
- ♦ In 1990, the Library implemented an online catalog, JAC (Jenkins Automated Catalog).

The History of Jenkins Law Library

Jenkins Catalog Growth over 200 Years



The History of Jenkins Law Library

The catalog is not the only thing that changed through the years. The Library has had four names and seven homes. In 1827, the Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia merged with The Associated Members of the Bar, organized in 1821, to form the Law Association of Philadelphia, now known as the Philadelphia Bar Association.



The History of Jenkins Law Library

Names:

- ♦ Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia
1802-1827, 25 years
- ♦ The Law Association of Philadelphia
1827-1931, 104 years

Locations:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Independence Hall | 1802-1819 |
| Congress Hall | 1819-1827 |
| Edward Shippen Bldg. | 1827-1876 |
| The Athenaeum | 1876-1898 |
| City Hall – Rm 600 | 1898-1931 |



Congress Hall



The Athenaeum

The History of Jenkins Law Library

Names:

- ◆ The Library of the Philadelphia Bar Association
1931-1967, 36 years
- ◆ Theodore F. Jenkins Memorial Law Library
1967-present, 35 years

Locations:

City Hall – Rm 600	1931-1967
City Hall – Rm 600	1967-1969
The Widener Building	1969-1984
833 Chestnut East	1984-present



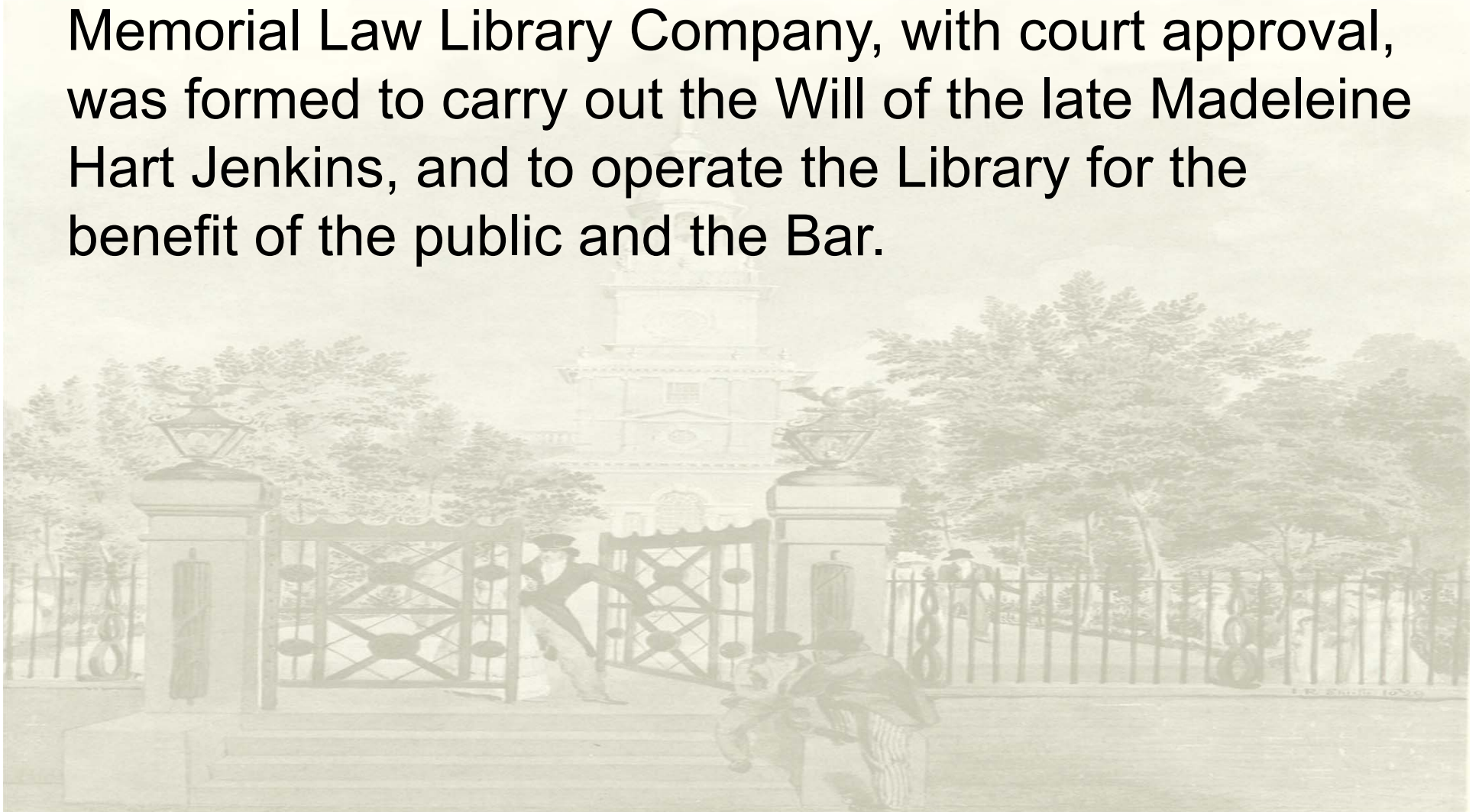
City Hall - Rm 600



833 Chestnut East

The History of Jenkins Law Library

The library was operated by the Bar Association until July 1, 1967, when The Theodore F. Jenkins Memorial Law Library Company, with court approval, was formed to carry out the Will of the late Madeleine Hart Jenkins, and to operate the Library for the benefit of the public and the Bar.



The History of Jenkins Law Library

The portraits of Madeleine and Theodore Jenkins currently reside in the Library's foyer on the 12th floor of the 833 Chestnut Street building.



Madeleine H. Jenkins

Theodore F. Jenkins

Jenkins Today ...

Jenkins is now a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation governed by a 9 member Board of Directors lead by Harold Cramer, Esquire.



Board of Directors - 1989

Jenkins Today ...

“Jenkins Law Library's mission is to be a consistent and comprehensive information resource, making hard-to-find information accessible and affordable. Our staff of legal research experts strive to offer personalized attention, deliver outstanding service, and provide ongoing education through legal and related professional development programs. The Library is committed to bringing people and information together to promote equal access to justice for all Philadelphians.”

- Regina L. Smith, Director of Jenkins Law Library

Jenkins Today ...

As the Library enters the 21st century, Jenkins offers more than just the traditional books and catalogs.

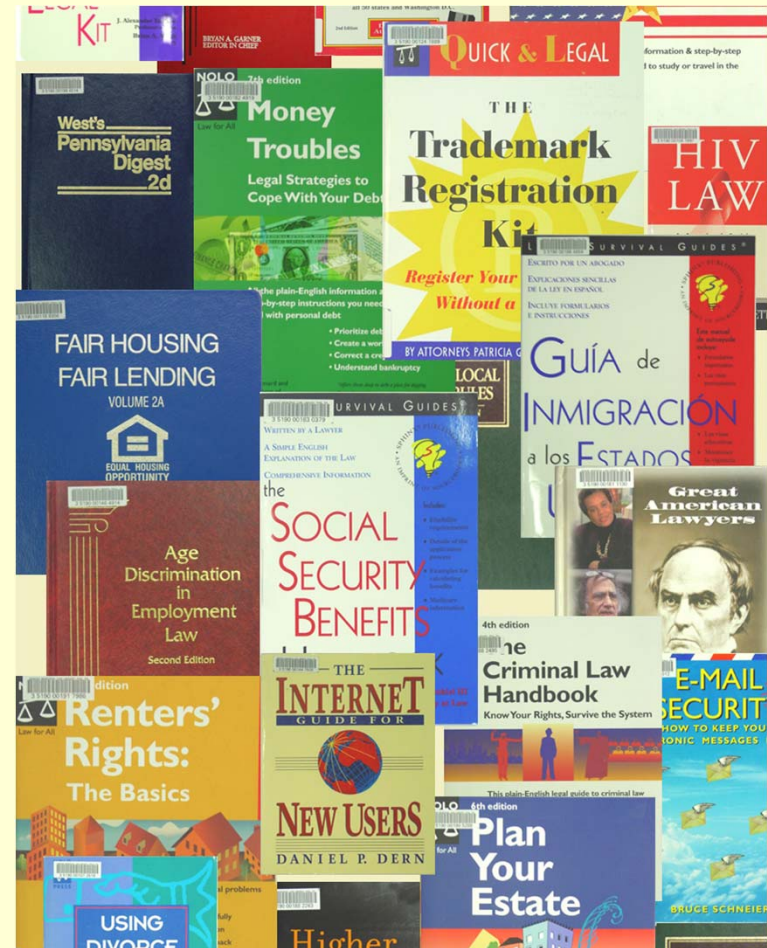
The collage illustrates the library's digital offerings. The top-left screenshot shows the Jenkins website homepage with sections like 'DO IT YOURSELF', 'LET US DO IT', and 'LEARN HOW'. The top-right is a CD-ROM labeled 'Jenkins Resources'. The bottom-left shows a person at a computer workstation. The bottom-right is a screenshot of the 'Jenkins Automated Catalog (JAC)' search interface, which includes search criteria like Author, Subject, Keywords, Call Number, Title or Series, ISBN/ISSN, and Author & Title. It also lists 'Can't find it? Try:' options such as Legal Periodicals, Jenkins Legal and Nonlegal Research Links Collection, and Jenkins Interlibrary Loan Service.

www.jenkinslaw.org

jac.jenkinslaw.org

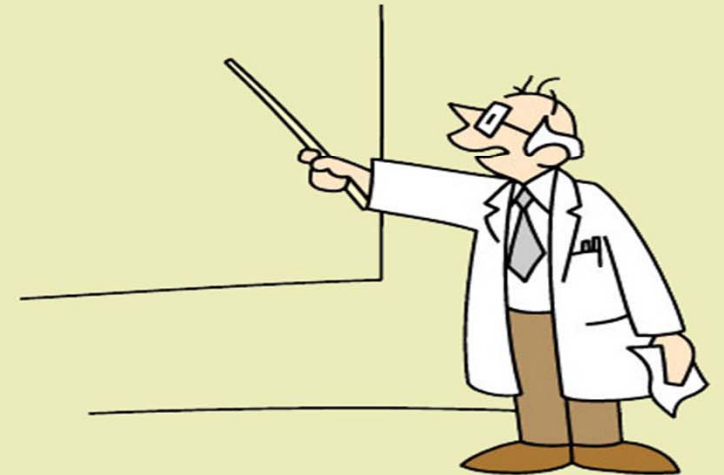
Jenkins Today ...

The Library's collection is now complemented by various microform resources, an online catalog, electronic version of periodicals, CD-ROMS, databases for opinions and cases, librarian reviewed research web links and much more.



Did you know?

The library's collection has grown to include over 380,000 print and 450,000 microform equivalent volumes, with hundreds of volumes in CD-ROM format, and access to materials world-wide through the web.



Jenkins Today ...

In addition to providing equal access to legal information, Jenkins also excels in personalized legal, business, medical, and other research services at library members' request.



Jenkins Librarians

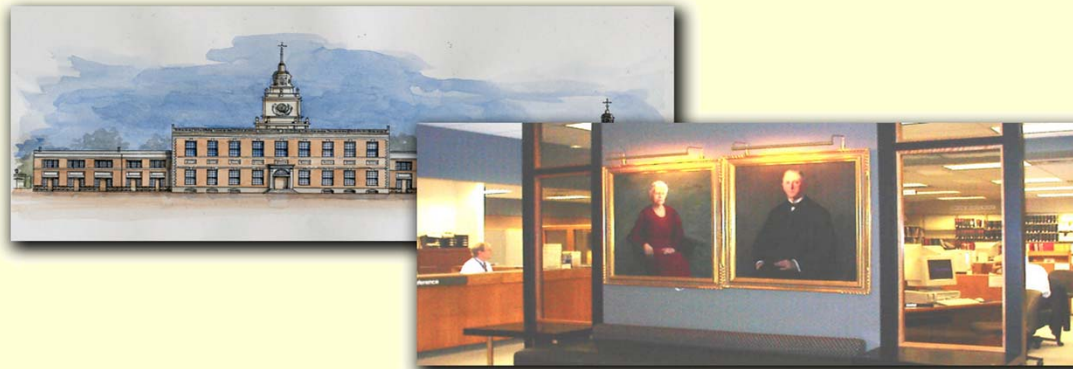
Jenkins Today ...

Today, the library is a place where old meets new and where the past encounters the future. By bringing together the latest information technologies with centuries of legal information, Jenkins continues in its traditions of resource sharing and personalized service.



200 years as America's First Law Library

Jenkins Law Library



Thank you for your interest in our history. For more information about Jenkins, please visit the library or Web site, www.jenkinslaw.org .

Location: Jenkins Law Library
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Suite 1220
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: (215) 574 - 7900