1. **PURPOSE:** To assist the Department of Law (D/Law) in its goals, the USMA Library will seek to advance the intellectual development of all cadets enrolled in the core course and the Law and Legal Studies Major. The Library will serve as an important source for the continued development of D/Law faculty; and for the lifelong learning of West Point graduates who concentrate in pre-law studies as cadets.

2. **INFORMATION LITERACY OBJECTIVES:** We recognize the importance of educating cadets to be competent and astute users of information, and of assisting faculty with their information needs. The library currently maintains web-based research guides on Sources of U.S. Law and Legal Research Basics to support cadets taking LW 310, Introduction to Legal Studies. Additional guides will be added as needed.

As coursework for Law majors culminates in a capstone project synthesizing the knowledge and skills gained over their studies (and, in some cases, the production of an Honors Thesis) the library seeks to ensure that cadets completing their capstone project and Law and Legal Studies Major exhibit strong information literacy and research skills. To that end, the library liaison to the Law Department will design and manage a program to offer both generalized and targeted information literacy instruction to cadets enrolled in the core course and the Law and Legal Studies Major. This program will include direct instruction to cadets by library staff, as well as instruction to department faculty.
D/Law faculty should be aware of the law school libraries in the area:

- Albany Law School, Union University
- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University
- Brooklyn Law School
- City University of New York School of Law at Queens College
- Columbia University School of Law
- Cornell University Law School
- Fordham University School of Law
- Hofstra University School of Law
- New York Law School
- New York University School of Law
- Pace University School of Law
- St. John's University School of Law
- State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law
- Syracuse University College of Law
- Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

Cadets and faculty should be knowledgeable about obtaining items from other libraries, including the various processes.

Cadets in all D/Law courses use the Department of Law Citation Guide as the format guide for citing their sources and for arranging their bibliographies when writing general expository class papers, and The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation when writing model legal documents. They should be fully literate in these citation styles.
3. **COLLECTION PRIORITIES:** The Department of Law is particularly interested in obtaining materials in the areas of: jurisprudence, legal theory, the philosophy of law, natural law, English common law, European civil law, Islamic law, Constitutional law, military law, environmental law, international law, consumer protection, property law (real, personal, and intellectual), and antitrust law. The department also uses materials useful in illuminating the perspectives of other disciplines, such as sociology and economics.

The library liaison will work in concert with the Law Department’s library officer to collect materials in support of these programs according to the following criteria:

- Lasting value of the content
- Appropriateness of treatment level
- Strength of present holdings in same or similar subject areas
- Demand, as determined by such metrics as circulation data and interlibrary loan requests for material on the same or similar subjects
- Cost effectiveness
- Suitability of format to content
- Authority of author
- Reputation of publisher
- Reviews in subject-specific and standard library reviewing sources

The general emphasis is to acquire and retain materials which are currently the most authoritative in their fields. The library recognizes the need for retrospective purchases and will use standard bibliographies and other evaluation tools to locate and fill gaps in the collection when warranted by curriculum changes and new program additions. However, it is most important to spend funds for valuable current publications of long-term worth, thus preventing a future need for retrospective buying.

Except for foreign language dictionaries and a small number of foreign language journals, the library acquires primarily English language reference and research sources.
Pamphlets are acquired only if substantial enough to justify cataloging. No pamphlet/vertical file is maintained.

Final selection of materials is the responsibility of the USMA Library liaison working with the department library officer. Other faculty members are encouraged to make recommendations for library acquisitions from their professional literature as well as for materials supporting their courses and students' research needs. Cadet requests for acquisition of materials are also welcomed, and are reviewed by the same standards as are requests from all other sources.

No contractual agreement for cooperative collection development exists between USMA Library and any other library. However, USMA is a member of the ConnectNY and New England Express consortia of libraries. Should the research materials required by faculty and cadets not be met by holdings of the USMA Library and their consortia partners, access to additional information resources is provided through interlibrary loan services from libraries around the world.

4. **FORMAT OF MATERIALS:**

   a. **MONOGRAPHS:**

      The USMA Library collects monographs in multiple formats, including paper, microform, and digital. All formats will be considered when purchasing monographs and the decision will be based on lasting value, expected use and cost.

   b. **SERIALS:**

      The USMA Library collects serials in multiple formats including paper, microform, and digital. While all formats will be considered when purchasing serials, we will generally purchase digital materials unless there is a strong justification for acquiring print, microform or any other format.

   c. **DIGITAL RESOURCES:**

      Where possible, the USMA Library will seek to provide digital resources to support the curriculum except in cases where print materials are superior or required based on value, use, or cost.

      Generally, digital resource should meet these goals:

      - Support remote users
      - Be directly accessible via the USMA network/remote proxy
• Be licensed for multiple simultaneous users
• Deliver reliable access
• Be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
• Utilize a unified and intuitive interface

d. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:

The Government Documents area of the USMA Library holds outstanding primary source materials for Law majors and faculty. Congressional publications, Statutes at Large, and U.S. Supreme Court Reports are among the many relevant documents in paper and electronic form.

e. DATASETS:

The Department does not purchase datasets through USMA Library.

f. OTHER NON-PRINT MATERIALS:

Limited purchases of non-print materials (CDs, DVDs, image collections, etc.) are evaluated on the same basis as monographs, with special emphasis on the suitability of the format to the content, and on the quality of the production.

5. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES: The Unique Resources of the USMA Library are of some possible significance to D/Law, possessing classic legal treatises and information on the history of the department useful to the study of the state of military law in the past.

6. ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY: The departmental library in the Department of Law houses a historical collection of materials useful for the study of military law, as well as more recent acquisitions in support of the Center for the Rule of Law.

The department library is open Monday through Friday during regular business hours; the area is also used as a classroom.

Faculty takes an active role in collection development, consistently reviewing new literature to make recommendations for purchase.

Faculty and cadets of the Department are increasingly aware of the plentiful titles in the USMA Library electronic book and journal databases. These titles make outstanding additions to the hard copy monograph library.
7. **COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES**: The legal research portion of Lexis/Nexis Academic is utilized very often by the faculty, as are the law reviews available within such aggregators as JSTOR, Academic Search Premier, and ProQuest Research Library.

8. **EXISTING OR PROSPECTIVE GIFT SUPPORT**: While there are no gift funds specifically designated for the field, topical gift funds may be used to support materials for the D/Law.

9. **LIAISON ENGAGEMENT**: The liaison will teach a section of LW403, attend departmental meetings, and be present in the Department of Law as appropriate. The liaison will assist other faculty members with integrating library materials into their curricula and their own professional research. Inclusion on the department’s e-mail distribution list and access to the Department of Law shared drive are extremely helpful.

10. **EXPIRATION**: This policy is effective until superseded or rescinded.

CHRISTOPHER D. BARTH  
Librarian and Associate Dean, USMA