

Vinson & Elkins LLP

A Global Law Firm

For more than a century, [Vinson & Elkins](#) has provided outstanding client service across important industries that drive the global economy.

Built on a strong culture of collaboration across 11 offices on three continents, our lawyers are committed to excellence, offering clients deep knowledge and experience in handling transactions, investments, projects, and disputes across the globe.

Today, Vinson & Elkins is a trusted adviser to clients in wide-ranging areas, such as energy, technology, banking/finance, M&A/private equity, real estate, media, commercial litigation, labor and employment, natural resources, and tax. Advising on the most complex matters and providing comprehensive service, the firm is well-positioned to assist clients with their legal needs.

Over the past 20 years, Vinson & Elkins has built an industry-leading Clean Energy & Renewables practice, with experience in hydrogen, solar, and wind; energy storage; fuel cells; smart-grid applications; biomass; waste-to-energy; and more.

The Clean Energy & Renewables team works across practices, bringing in the firm's experience in environmental law counseling, licensing, M&A, project development and financing, regulation, and tax.

Vinson & Elkins also has a strong commitment to pro bono work. The firm is most known for the legal aid it provides veterans, nonprofits, low-income people, asylum seekers, and those seeking medical guardianship.

At a glance:

Chosen solution: illumina and Liberty Standard

Key objectives: OPAC: Customizable homepage/portal; Management & presentation of electronic resources; REFERENCE TRACKER: Integration with Outlook; Easy to use dashboard for multiple research teams

Flexible Options Single Sign On, SAML

Core Challenges Provide a single access point for attorneys and business professionals to find relevant information quicker (OPAC portal and illumina knowledge base).

Library team: illumina – 7 licensed users and Liberty – 7 licensed users

Vinson & Elkins



Liberty

This case study focuses on how [Vinson & Elkins LLP](#) use [Liberty](#) & [illuminate](#) in their library to better manage resources, centralize data requests, and offer a high standard of service. They've successfully implemented both products (within a few months of each other!) to create a centralized, accessible portal for attorneys and business professionals. This integration has not only improved library management but also enriched the services provided to their attorneys and new employees. As they continue to explore additional knowledge management opportunities, they remain committed to leveraging cutting-edge solutions that enhance the firm's efficiency and effectiveness.

"We were looking for a customizable system, where we could control how we presented the information to our attorneys. [Liberty](#) is infinitely customizable; we can make it really look how we want it to," commented Michael McHenry, Director of Research & Knowledge Services (RKS).

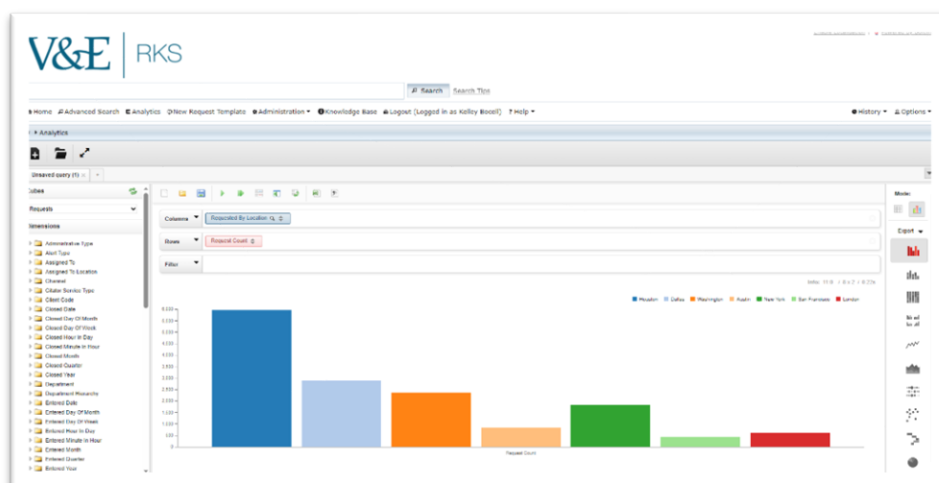
Using Liberty & illuminate

Opting to install both [Liberty](#) and [illuminate](#) within the firm, the RKS team is able to offer a high standard of service to the firm's users (approximately 800 attorneys and 700 business professionals). The team supports many departments in the firm as well, such as media relations, communications, business development, and marketing. The research team and administrators appreciate both products for their functionality and user-friendliness.

Of the many features available in [Liberty](#), the team at Vinson & Elkins LLP highlighted how easy it is to search and access online databases while not overwhelming users. Further, the growing transition from physical to digital resources is an important consideration for the team as they seek to offer access to a wider range of resources while adapting to changing user needs. They've found [Liberty](#) is perfectly suited to the task!

Using [illuminate](#) has dramatically helped centralize information, allowing requests from multiple email accounts to be pulled into a single dashboard. But perhaps a real 'wow' factor is the ability, in [illuminate](#), to rate the resources used in request responses, giving immediate feedback on the resources and their content.

"We've been able to track total requests, requests from practice groups, types of requests and time spent on a request; as well as how long it takes for researchers to close a request from the moment they open it until completion. [illuminate](#) is a great platform to classify different types of requests because of the ability to create custom fields in addition to the standard fields currently existing in [illuminate](#)." said Michael.



The library

The RKS department uses [Liberty's](#) OPAC as the primary access point for their library holdings, both print and electronic. This 'Portal Page' offers quick access to the firm's most frequently used resources, highlights specific resources for attorneys' practice areas, provides links to training and research guides, and offers an efficient and effective way to search all the library's resources. The department's aim is to help attorneys and business professionals quickly and easily find the information they need, thereby boosting their productivity.

RKS Operations Manager Kelley Bocell makes fantastic use of [Liberty's](#) information boxes, available on the portal. These information boxes highlight specific content and can be made visible to all users, or only a select group of users. For example, one customized information box was created to display content specific to Summer Associates and included links to recorded video trainings on key resources, an FAQ and other important instructions.

Another information box uses the carousel feature to highlight a specific collection of books focused on professional development and attorneys may request to borrow these books for their personal use.

Another feature Kelley makes use of is [Liberty's](#) 'bibtypes' or bibliographic types. This feature of the system means she can customize records, not just by type (for example electronic resources), but further by other categories which may be useful, such as a source (RSS feed, blog, YouTube channel),

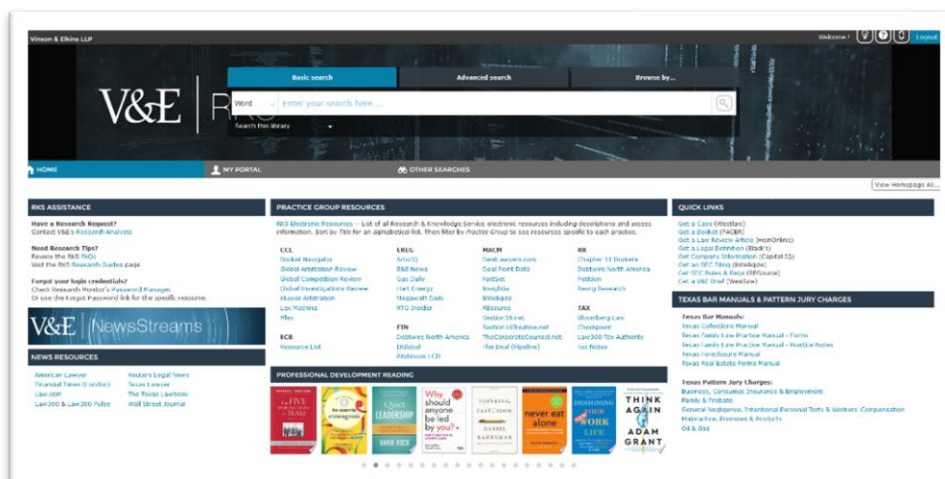
vendor or publication source (such as Westlaw, Bloomberg Law or Lexis).

The collection

Over the last few years, Kelley has noticed a change in the composition of their library collection. She pointed out, "The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a greater preference for digital materials over physical copies". She further added the numerous advantages of electronic resources compared to print resources include easier sharing across library networks, simultaneous access by multiple users, and no need for physical circulation or maintenance.

The current physical library collection across the firm includes over 2,300 titles and approximately 5,500 volumes, with print holdings in nine offices. The smallest office collection consists of 5 titles (8 volumes) and the largest includes 882 titles (approximately 3,000 volumes). In recent years, as each office either has moved to a new building or renovated the current space, there have been large reductions in the physical library space, with some offices forfeiting up to 90% of library shelf space.

Now, much of their collection is digital. Their primary eBook platform, the LexisNexis Digital Library on OverDrive, provides access to 340 titles, amounting to about 950 volumes. In addition, the catalog contains over 35,000 MARC records with direct links to resources on Westlaw, Lexis, Bloomberg Law, VitalLaw, Kluwer Arbitration, HeinOnline, PLI Plus and a few other platforms.



About 300 records also exist for each electronic resource subscription to which the firm subscribes.

Their physical collection, coupled with their digital subscriptions, offers the firm's attorneys a breathtakingly broad, varied and plentiful library collection, reaching tens of thousands of resources.

"From when I started five years ago, our subscriptions to digital material have increased significantly," said Kelley. In fact, some newsletters and journals that were once received in print are now delivered as PDF documents.

"I love that [Liberty](#) is able to accommodate this change in delivery method and checks in the PDF as a file on the serial record," Kelley continued.

This case study focusing on Vinson & Elkins LLP illustrates the effectiveness of utilizing [Liberty](#) and [Illumin](#) in legal firms to efficiently manage resources and deliver a high standard of service. Through Liberty, their library can provide a central access point to print and electronic resources for users in various departments within the firm.

Furthermore, the ease with which [Liberty](#) handles managing the transition from physical to digital resources plays a crucial role in the library's success, as libraries strive to adapt to evolving user needs. [illuminate](#) helps the research teams to centralize data requests from practice groups and provides comprehensive, in-depth reporting and analytics. Both applications are highly regarded for their usability among users and administrators.

The successful integration of Liberty & illuminate into their library operations serves as a compelling case study for other firms seeking to optimize their resource management and service delivery. Their journey provides valuable insights and inspiration for organizations striving to achieve similar successes.