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Stepping up Access to the Indiana Code: Partnering for Increased Access and Preservation

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Stepping up Access to the Indiana Code

Partnering for Increased Access and Preservation

1 The Gap

The Ruth Lilly Law Library holds one of the most complete sets of the Indiana Code in print. It is not unusual for us to receive research requests for old code sections. We became interested in digitizing our print codes to allow researchers to explore the historical codes for themselves. As of 2019, there is no open access to the Indiana Code predating 2009 (Indiana General Assembly), and paid access offers no codes between 1921 (HeinOnline) and 1990 (Westlaw) or 1991 (Lexis). We want to change this.
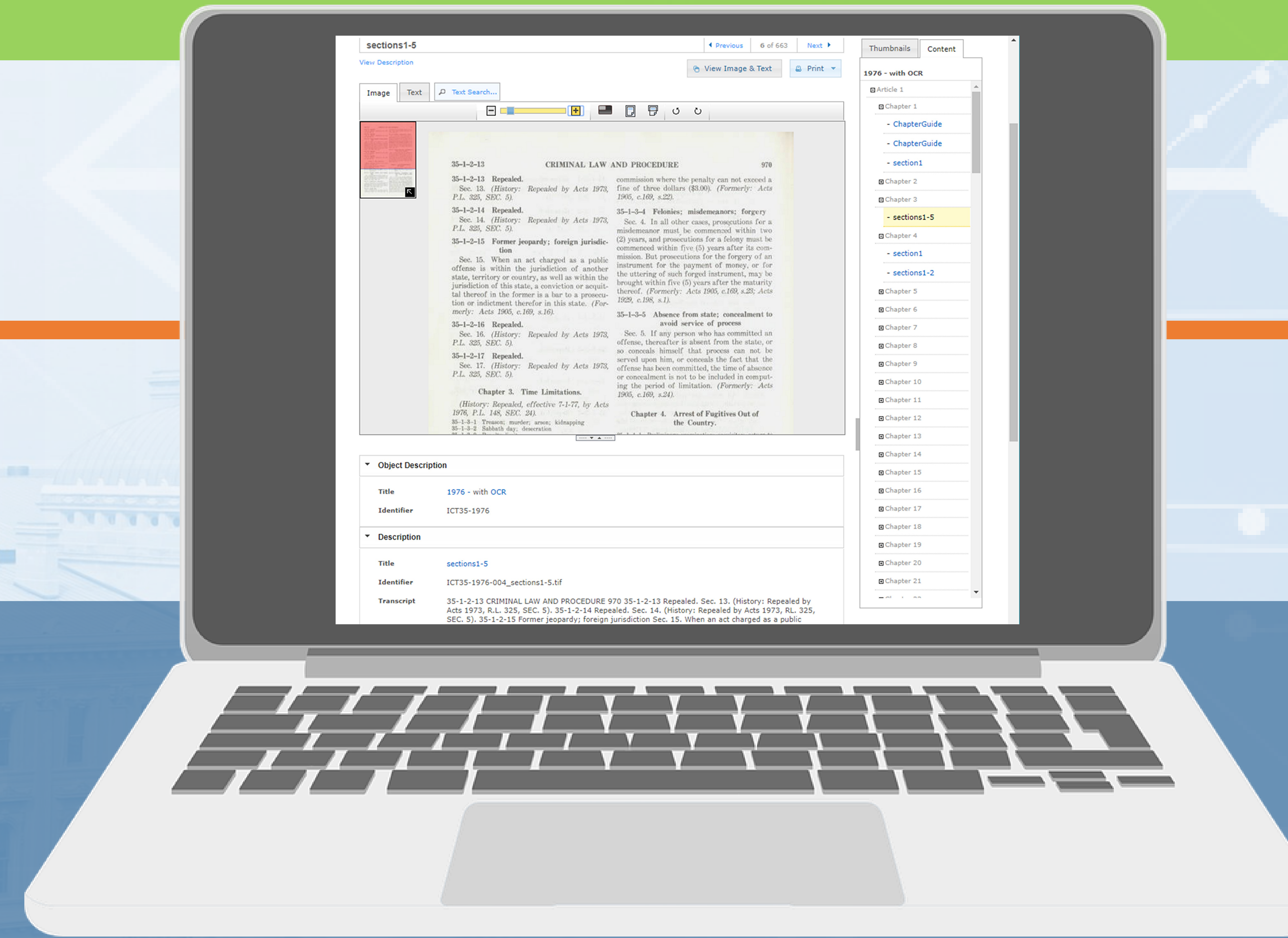
Coverage across existing digital collections

	1816	1921	1970	1990	2010	2020
HeinOnline						
Lexis Advance						
Westlaw						
Indiana General Assembly						
RLLL Digital Collection	PHASE 2 (Future)	PHASE 1 (in process)				
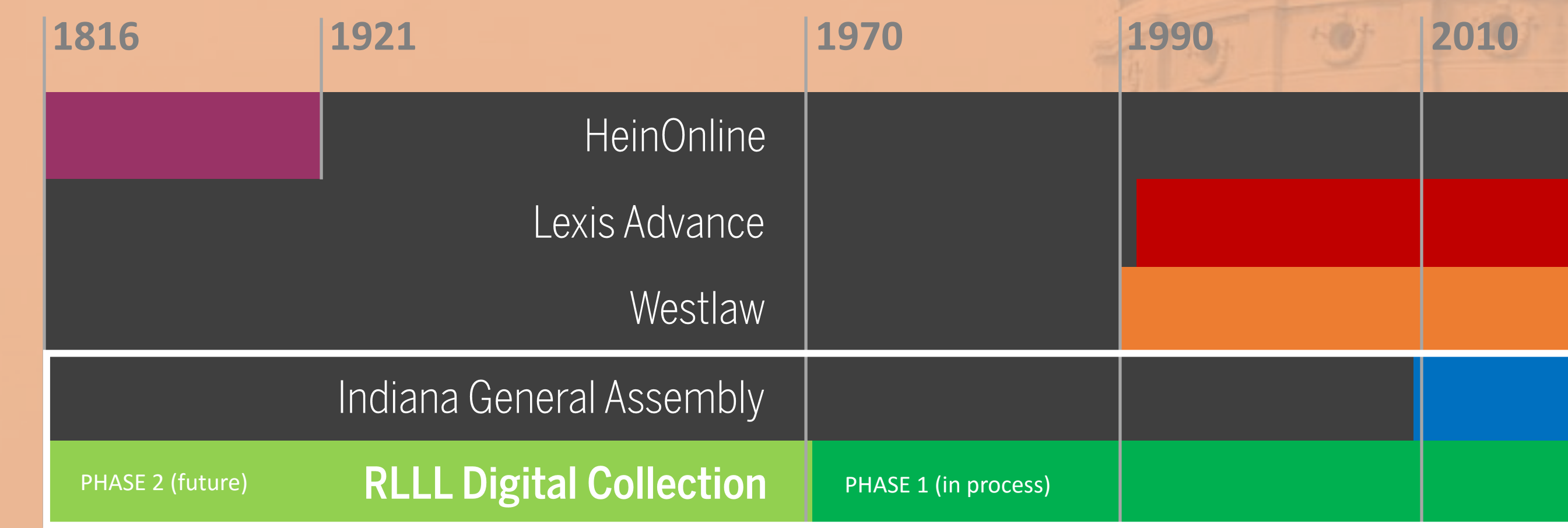
Access is free through the Indiana General Assembly and RLLL.

2 Groundwork

In the spring of 2019, we met with librarians from the Center for Digital Scholarship at our campus's University Library. With their help, we decided to start scanning a single title of the Indiana Code from 1976 through 2019 as a pilot project to assess feasibility and interest. We chose Title 35 (Criminal Law and Procedure) since it is one for which we receive frequent requests.

We also decided to experiment first with CONTENTdm as the platform for hosting and public access because it would not cost us anything. University Library already pays for CONTENTdm. We also agreed to use University Library's student employees to do the scanning, and we have been able to arrange to pay the students' wages out of our student employee budget even though the work is being done at a different campus unit.

While images are hosted on OCLC's CONTENTdm server, we also planned for copies to be kept, at least temporarily, on University Library's local server and, more permanently, in the university's Scholarly Data Archive.

3 Current Status

Scanning of Title 35 is complete into the 2000s. The 1976 Code is, at the moment, the only year that has been processed and exists in the collection.

CONTENTdm is not the perfect platform, but we have determined that it works. It can deal with the number of scans involved. Navigation requires a fair number of clicks, but retrieval of a particular section is relatively easy. The uncorrected OCR is searchable and successfully leads the user to relevant pages. And the price cannot be beat.

We hope to have a public-facing interface and more years available in the fall of 2019.

4 The Future

There are two main avenues by which we hope to expand this project.
1. Digitize the other titles of the Indiana Code from 1976 to 2000. This is largely a matter of time and labor, most of which we hope will be done by the Center for Digital Scholarship and their staff of student employees. The Indiana Legislative Services has agreed to contribute their digitized copies of 2001 to the present to the project.
2. Move backward in time, digitizing the Codes prior to 1976. Most of these were privately published, making copyright an issue for anything post-1924. Some of the print materials are also in poor condition, which will make scanning more challenging.

Digitizing Process

Copyright

We reached out to the Indiana Legislative Services Agency (LSA) and Thomson Reuters to discuss copyright. Thomson Reuters, which published the Code on behalf of Indiana from 1976 to 2001, has granted permission for us to use section headings, tables, and indexes. The LSA has been enthusiastic about this project since the Indiana government has no plans to digitize anything prior to 2001, and has likewise given us the necessary permissions to provide open access to the Code.

Scanning

1. Scan print code volumes using Bookeye 4V1 overhead scanner and Opus FreeFlow software, which scans both pages at once and automatically separates them into two images.
2. Export batches of scans to local server using FreeFlow. FreeFlow does automatic file naming, so most of the filename is assigned at this point.
3. Straighten and crop images using Adobe Photoshop.
4. Add page numbers to the end of the filename using Better File Rename.

Organizing

1. Review images to ensure that everything has been scanned and edited in the proper order.
2. Create folders for Tables of Contents, Articles, and Chapters (based on the structure of Indiana Code), and sort the pages into the appropriate folders.
3. Rename files to reflect the Article, Chapter, and Section (or table of contents) using Better File Rename.

Uploading

1. Upload a volume (one year of Title 35) into Project Client, a Windows-based, digital collection builder for CONTENTdm, as a monograph (this creates the hierarchy of folders next to the viewing pane) using the compound object wizard. The compound object wizard is also used to direct the software to generate OCR transcripts and print PDFs for each page. This upload takes about 45 minutes to an hour depending on the size.
2. Add a cataloger's code and item ID so metadata librarian can easily pull the volume from the collection for metadata work.
3. From Project Client, upload the volume into the collection in CONTENTdm, where users can view it online.

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