



Library, archives and databases



The Department of Management of Information and Knowledge, which consists of the Archives and the Library, provides essential services for the digital processing of files, and also information services for the preparation of draft judgments, Advisory Opinions and orders, as well as academic activities. In addition, it provides support to the national and international researchers who visit the Court each day, in person and virtually.

XVI. Library

Founded in 1981, the Library is an information unit. It has a collection of specialized documents on human rights, international law, international humanitarian law and different branches of law. It subscribes to important databases, and attends and responds to in-person and virtual inquiries using the new information and communication technologies.

A. Digital Library

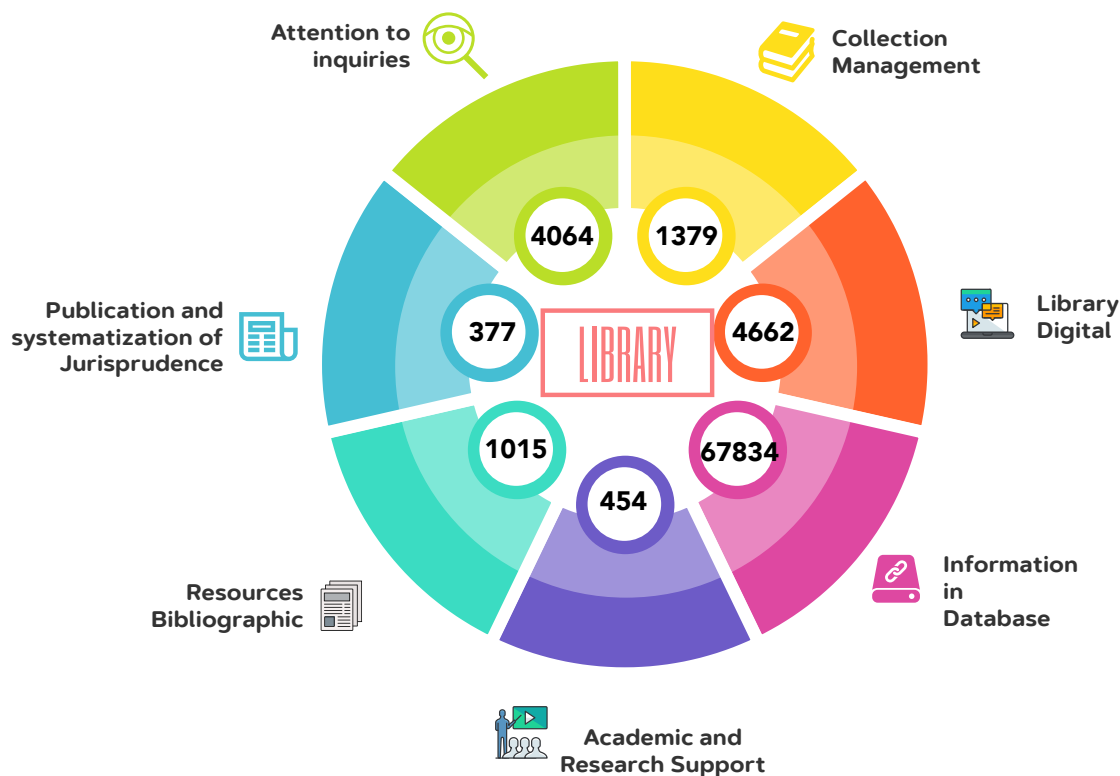
Created in September 2021, the Digital Library has more than 900 full-text digital resources, designed to make reading the documents easier and more accessible. The options available for digital readers include functions such as bookmarking, adding personal notes, navigation with dynamic index, word search and page position, integrated dictionary, and the possibility of sharing extracts.

To date, the Digital Library has received 1,013 site visits. It has 1,036 registered users, and has responded to 2,000 inquiries.

Also, in order to publicize the most recent acquisitions and new bibliographical material, the Digital Library publishes the newsletter “DerHum Literary News” every week. This electronic publication is distributed by email to almost 12,000 subscribers around the world. During 2022, 49 newsletters were prepared with detailed information on, and access to, 294 bibliographic resources.

In this context, the Digital Library has also acquired specialized databases such as: HeinOnline, Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, Human Rights Law Review and Tirant Latam, available on our: [Website](#).

The Library in figures



● Collection management

The development and management of the collection implies a broad knowledge of the specialized legal subject matter, the needs of the users, as well as the accessibility and availability of each resource (selection, acquisition, analysis, systematization and updating).

● Digital Library

The Digital Library's bibliographic collection consists of 900 full-text books; it has received a total of 1013 visits to the site. received a total of 1013 visits to the site; there are 1036 registered users; 2000 queries have been answered and 772 books are being read.

● Information in Database

The Library has increased the quality and quantity of its bibliographic resources, in printed, digital and electronic formats; each resource is processed and analyzed according to international standards of cataloging, indexing and document classification. In addition to making use of controlled language tools such as the Subject Heading Lists and the Specialized Human Rights Thesaurus.

● Academic and Research Support

During the year, logistical and bibliographic support was provided for 7 courses offered in the IACHR Court's virtual learning environment. Processed 28 appeals before the ISBN-ISSN Agency; 5 induction and dissemination talks. 294 documents reviewed in 49 bulletins.

● Specialized Bibliographic Resources

The Library has increased the quantity and quality of its computer and bibliographic resources. Our catalog has 38068 specialized resources analyzed and systematized.

● Publication and systematization of Jurisprudence

During 2022, we continued with the publication of the different resolutions issued by the Court, in addition to information on pending cases. This publication is made in our catalog and in parallel in the new platform with intelligent technology that will support the investigative work with more timely results.

● Consultation Services

The Library has different communication channels and specialized personnel to attend and resolve queries, as well as access to our specialized collection and different databases.

Figure 1. Library statistics. Source: prepared by the author.

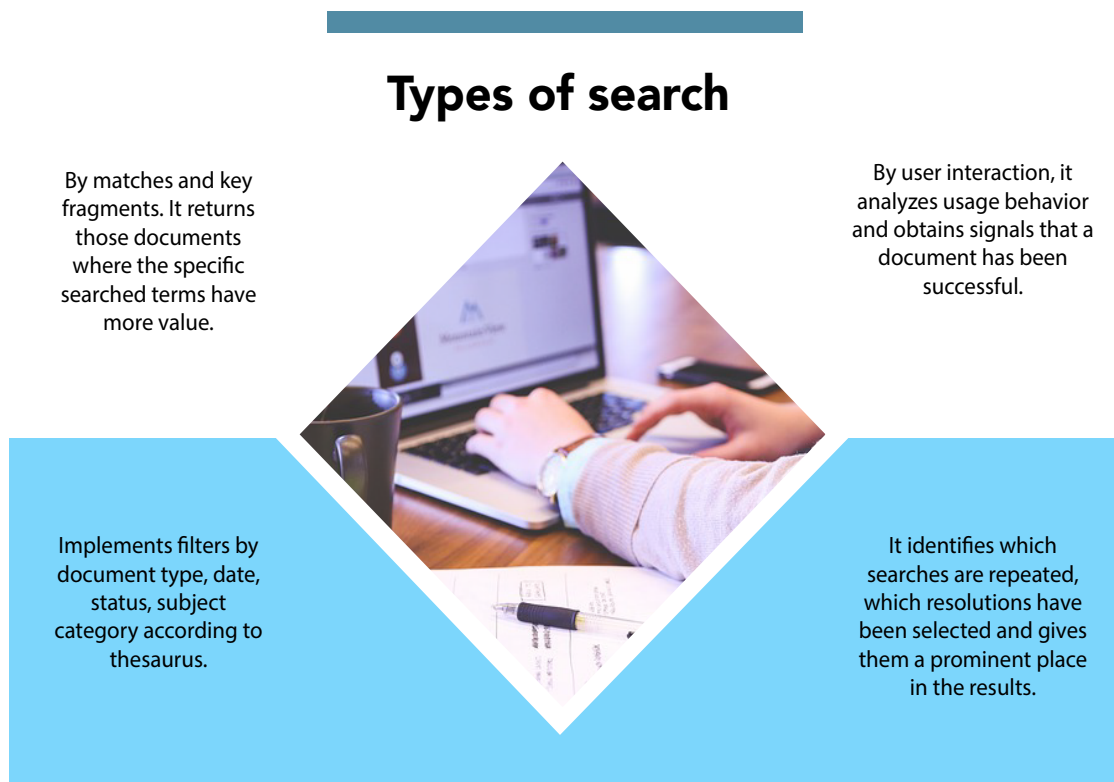


Figure 3. Types of search. Source: prepared by the author.

B. Archives

In 2013, the Archives department was created under the project for the internal electronic processing of briefs presented to the Court, as a result of the 2009 amendments to the Rules of Procedure, and the decision to use digital files. This provides the parties to the Inter-American human rights system and its users with access to processing, communication and dissemination procedures in order to facilitate communications between the Court and the different actors in its proceedings, and to expedite procedures by use of the new technologies.

The Archives department has assumed the process of digitalizing briefs received by regular mail, in addition to digitalizing and revising pre-2014 inactive files. It is also responsible for publishing the principal briefs in Contentious Cases on the Court's website. In this context, and as a result of the digitalization processes to preserve the judicial memory and documentary heritage of the Court, it has acquired a virtual server to safeguard and systematize 329 judicial files of closed cases.

Together with the Legal Area, it has developed a Case File Protocol aimed at standardizing the procedures for the creation, maintenance, use and conservation of the Court's case files. The rules established in this protocol have led to the standardization of practices for preservation of physical and digital files,

protection of the confidentiality of the personal and private information of the parties involved in the cases, and improvements in access to information.

The archive in figures

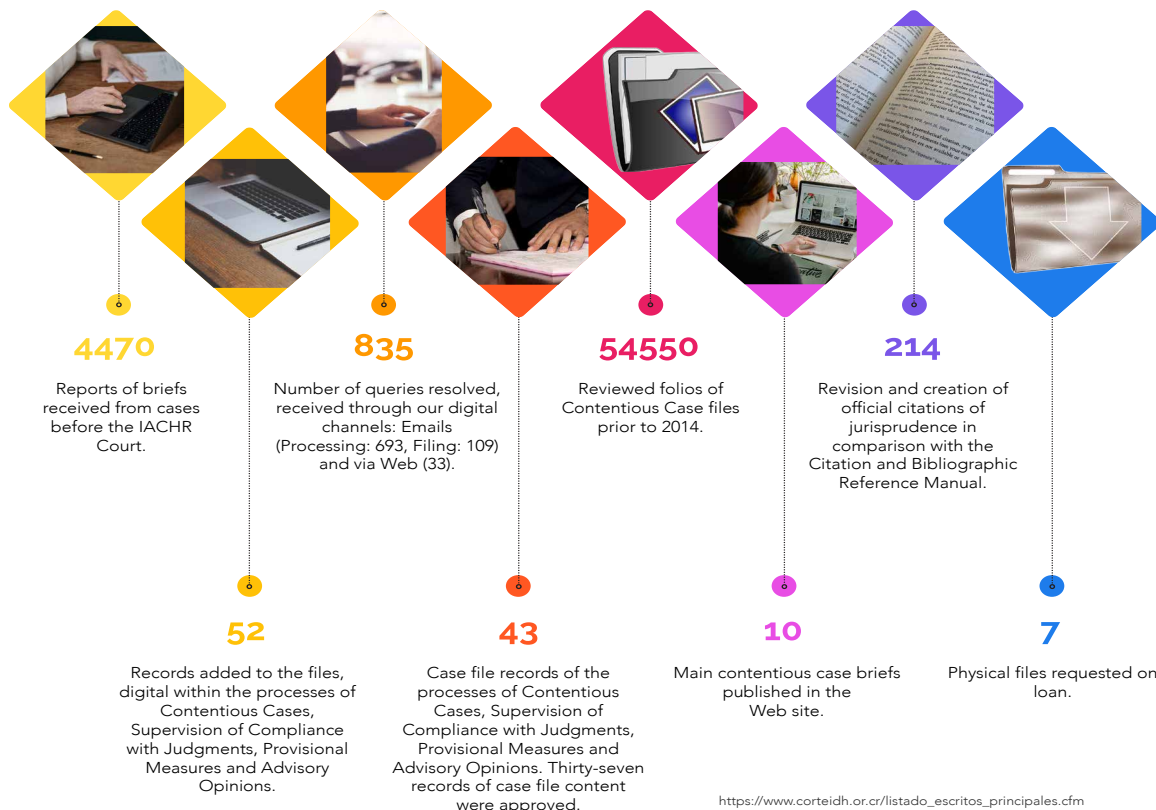


Figure 2. The Archives Department statistics. Source: prepared by the author.

C. Themis Digest

German cooperation implemented by GIZ, through their DIRAJus program, provides technical cooperation for the development and updating of the Digest. The Digest is conceived as a public document containing all the legal rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) in relation to the different articles of the American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR). The rulings are arranged by legal concept, ranging from the most abstract to the most specific, in light of the respective interpretation of the IACtHR.

The purpose of the Digest is to facilitate access to the norms of the ACHR in light of the Case Law of the IACtHR, and to identify the contribution made by the Court's judgments to the specific interpretation of an article of the ACHR. Each Digest has a table of contents and the sources are cited in the footnotes. This tool is constantly being updated and expanded. Currently, Digests have been produced for Articles 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26 and 29 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

The Themis Digest can be accessed [here](#).