



# NEWSLINE

## LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS

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Fall 1996

### Chair's Column

by Nancy Quesada, Texas  
LRL Chairperson

It was great seeing you all at the Professional Development Seminar in Washington, DC, October 17th-19th. We had 33 participants, from 28 states, plus the District of Columbia, and Saskatchewan, Canada. There were several who were attending their first seminar, and I hope that they found it a rewarding experience.

Many thanks to Earl Graybeal and his staff at the Hall of the States, and Lynda Davis of the Maryland Legislative Library, who hosted our meetings. Thanks to the terrific planning and organization skills of JoAnne Bourquard and Rita Thaemert of NCSL, everything went smoothly. (Although Rita was a little concerned when the box of meeting materials didn't land at the Washington airport when she did - the box had been delayed and came in on the next flight). In this issue of NEWSLINE, we offer summaries of our sessions at the Congressional Research Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Maryland Legislative Library.

Continuing to serve as regional coordinators this year are Jennifer Bernier (CT), Jeanne Burke (NE), Rona Mertink (TX), Janet Lanigan (FL), and Marian Rogers (WI). New regional coordinators are Joyce Grimes (SC), and Jennifer Boteler (ID). Debbie Tavenner (OH) will continue to compile the responses received from the coordinators. Thank-you all for supporting this feature of our NEWSLINE.

The NCSL Executive Committee and the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee met in Mobile,

Alabama the weekend following the elections. Sally Reynolds, Clare Cholik, Jonetta Douglas, and I represented our staff section at this meeting. A summary of the LCSS meeting is also in this issue.

Best wishes for the New Year, and may 1997 be the best year ever for our staff section, and for your library!



### Professional Development Seminar

#### Congressional Research Service

Thursday, October 17

by Clare Cholik, South Dakota

On Thursday morning, seminar attendees visited the James Madison Memorial Building of the Library of Congress for a presentation on the Congressional Research Service. CRS Director, Dan Mulhollan, welcomed us and discussed the history of the service, created by Congress in 1914. Since then, CRS has continually provided Members of Congress and their

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### LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH LIBRARIANS STAFF SECTION

of the National Conference of State Legislatures

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Chairperson: Nancy Quesada, Librarian, Legislative Reference Library, Texas

NCSL Staff: Jo Anne Bourquard and Rita Thaemert

committees with confidential, objective research and information assistance. The service works exclusively for Congress and provides information at every step in the lawmaking process.

Following the introduction, Donna Scheeder addressed the group. She is acting chief of the Congressional Reference Division and a frequent participant in LRL Staff Section activities at Annual Meeting. Ms. Scheeder discussed the organization and operation of the service. CRS has nine divisions, seven are research divisions and two are information divisions. Among the research divisions is the American Law Division. It consists primarily of attorneys and paralegals who answer questions about the legality or constitutionality of certain measures. Another research division is the Government Division, whose staff, among other duties, train Members on the legislative process. The information divisions primarily provide library and reference services.

The service responds to more than 500,000 congressional requests annually. It employs 14 public affairs specialists who receive information requests by telephone, fax and electronic mail. While CRS performs a lot of custom research, they also prepare staff reports and issue briefs on subjects of wide interest. Those reports are available in the reading rooms that CRS maintains in congressional office buildings and also online and through their fax-on-demand service. In addition, CRS maintains information packets on approximately 127 topics that generate the most inquiries.

In the final portion of the program, Louis Drummond, acting head of the CRS Automation Office, and Peggy Garvin, Information Resource Specialist with the Congressional Reference Division, discussed electronic research sources. They described CRS's home page, which is available only to Members and their staffs. It provides access to CRS publications, information on legislation, bills in full text, and other resources valuable to Congress. The Service subscribes to 20 online services such as Westlaw. While the CRS home page is inaccessible to the public, the Library of Congress maintains sites that are widely available. The presenters pointed to a couple noteworthy features. The Library of Congress' home page contains "Explore Internet," a guide to the Internet. Also, *Thomas*, the Library of Congress' legislative information site, has improved recently and now includes many more links to other sources of information.

## Government Printing Office

Thursday, October 17

by Jonetta Douglas, Iowa

Rick Davis and Terry Barnes from the U.S. GPO reviewed both the history of GPO Access and some of the future plans for the service. Under P.L. 103-40 the Government Printing Office was mandated to meet at least four requirements regarding online service: make available online the Federal Register and Congressional Record with other databases to be selected by GPO; develop Federal Locator Service, Pathways to Government Information, including GILS applications; provide a storage facility for electronic files on-demand; and establish a federal bulletin board.

Objectives for the online databases are to provide free public access for a wide range of users, allowing full text searching and a more timely delivery of information than the dissemination of paper while still having the equivalent content of the paper, including graphics and pagination. Documents from GPO have been available in 60 percent electronic form, 20 percent microfiche and 20 percent paper, but their goal is to soon be 80 percent electronic and 20 percent microfiche and paper.

Terry illustrated the easiest ways to search the CFR. She explained how to obtain the Adobe reader for use with certain federal documents (using this product gives your document the same appearance it has in paper). GPO Access will soon be putting a statement on their pages informing users that a document is official, so that users will not be skeptical about authenticity.

Rick discussed Library Program Services (LPS), Pathway Services and Federal Depository Library Programs (FDLP). He explained changes that have been made to the services and discussed ways the services can assist us and our patrons. He illustrated Pathway Services and how to browse by title. Rick explained that documents available online are considered products and not publications, because publications are paper--something for us to keep in mind when we contact GPO Access about problems regarding products or publications.



## Tour of the Maryland Legislative Library and Statehouse

Friday, October 18  
by Nancy Quesada

We took a short bus ride over the river and through the woods (decked out in their full autumn glory!) to Annapolis. We were warmly welcomed by Lynda Davis, and set out to explore the colonial-era Statehouse and waterfront area of Annapolis. Later we toured the beautifully restored Statehouse. We were impressed to learn that "George Washington (really) was here," and that he is still honored each year on his birthday with a candlelight ceremony in the Old Senate Chamber.

The Legislative Library is located across the street from the Statehouse, two floors underground. The library is near the General Assembly printshop, on the main tunnel that leads to the Statehouse—so it is easy for legislators to see and use the library.

The reception office of the library provides quick reference and bill-status service. They receive about 88,000 - 90,000 calls each year. The office also hosts tourists and international visitors, because Annapolis is a popular destination for international legislators wanting to study state legislative procedures. For example, in addition to our visit, they were also preparing for a legislative group from Germany and another from Ghana. The office prepares about ten thousand legislative information folders a year for students, visitors, and constituents.

To track legislation, Maryland has one central computer system that serves both chambers of the legislature. The system already provides bill and amendment numbers, sponsors, bill summaries, subjects, committee votes, fiscal notes and impact analyses, and other related legislative information. The legislative data processing office is adding the bills to this online system. Real-time access for tracking bills is sold on a subscription basis. Delayed-time access, (with the information downloaded each night), is offered for free over the Internet.

Questions requiring more research than the reception area provides are referred to the librarians in the main part of the library. The reference librarians were pleased to obtain new Pentium computers this summer, as they use a variety of electronic sources for research, including Westlaw, DIALOG, the library's online catalog, and the Internet. In addition to research

tasks, the librarians are each assigned several newspapers to search and mark for the clippings service and clippings files. Each week of legislative session, they are also responsible for tracking bills on particular subjects and providing summaries in a newsletter for the legislators on the progress of legislation.

The library staff provides extensive indexing service for all bills, all amendments, all budget bills, all session laws, all House Journals, and all Senate Journals! In addition, Barb Speyser reports that she indexes public local laws, municipal legislation, and some executive orders "in her spare time." The library uses a commercial database system called MacRex for indexing and compiling the abstracts, summaries, and bill synopses.

The library also coordinates requests for legislative histories. About ten requests per day are received, and turn-around time is one to two working days. Lynda said that "every scrap of paper" that may help a researcher, including any Legislative Council minutes, versions of the bills, drafter's notes, and Attorney General opinions, are saved for the bill files and microfilmed. Because Maryland does not have a State Library, the Legislative Library provides microfilm copies of these files to several depository libraries around the state.

The library uses the TINLAW/Information Navigator online catalog system from EOS International for the library's collection of 200 plus periodicals and 66,000 volumes. This system has integrated modules used for acquisitions, cataloging, serials, and circulation. They also use OCLC for cataloging books and Maryland documents. While the library is open to the public, circulation is limited to the legislators. The library is the main depository library for the state and issues the monthly Maryland documents checklist.

I couldn't list all of the services provided by the Legislative Library, but I hope this gives some idea of the comprehensive functions of this library and its place in the legislative process in Maryland. Our colleagues at the library were very generous with their time and shared many indexing aids. They even allowed us access to their "inner sanctums" in order to explain their various computer systems. We all came away with a new respect for the outstanding work of our legislative library colleagues in Maryland.



## Rountable Discussion

Saturday, October 19  
by Anne Rottmann, Missouri

Electronic access to documents versus print documents was the topic. Several points were made about the difficulty of accessing electronic data by smaller libraries. And even some larger libraries have access points only for staff internal use. Print costs were also discussed, because the costs must be absorbed by the library rather than the originator of the document. These costs create a whole new set of questions regarding access and financial resources. There seem to be no real solutions at this point.

Also discussed was the role of the legislative library in the legislative process. It was agreed that all states vary in scope and purpose for services offered to legislatures. We all serve the same clientele, but in many different ways. Several librarians described their roles within the system, both for services offered and the marketing of those services.



## Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee

by Nancy Quesada

Clare Cholik, Jonetta Douglas, and I represent the LRL staff section at the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) meetings. The most recent meeting was in Mobile, Alabama, Nov. 8-10. This was the first meeting that Jonetta and I had attended, and Clare gave us some valuable tips about the meetings. NCSL's Executive Committee met at the same time. Sally Reynolds, TX, a member of the Executive Committee, also attended the meeting.

The main topic of discussion at LSCC was the Assembly on State Issues (ASI) component of NCSL. ASI consists of committees and task forces, made up of legislators and legislative staff, that focus on state legislative issues. There are ten committees and task forces: (1) arts and tourism, (2) children, families, and health, (3) communications and information policy, (4) criminal justice, (5) education, (6) fiscal, oversight, and intergovernmental affairs; (7) legislative effectiveness, (8) science, energy, and environmental resources, (9) reapportionment, and (10) economic incentives. The ASI meetings are similar to Annual Meeting, in that the committees offer presentations on various topics. The

presentations provide another opportunity for members of staff sections to meet with members of legislatures and focus on topics of common interest. **Any presentation is open to any member of NCSL, whether or not you are a member of that particular committee. If you are interested in any of the presentations, you are most welcome to attend the ASI meetings.**

There are two ASI meetings in the near future, one in December and one in April. The December 11-14 meeting will be in Washington, DC, and will be a joint meeting with the Assembly on Federal Issues (AFI). The April 4-6, 1997, meeting will be in San Francisco. I want to urge members of our staff section to attend any ASI meetings that they can. I have the agenda for the April meeting in San Francisco, and will send you a copy if you contact me. Information is also available on the Internet, (at a familiar address: <http://www.ncsl.org>). **If any of our staff section members do attend any ASI meetings, please send me a note about the meeting--one or two paragraphs--to include in NEWSLINE.**

Staff sections are also encouraged to try to hold their planning meetings in conjunction with ASI, (or on the Friday before the ASI meetings) as this would be more efficient in planning, costs, and time, and perhaps boost attendance at both meetings. At the present time, our staff section does not hold planning meetings, but we will keep the ASI meetings in mind (possibly 1998 or 1999 Professional Development Seminars).



## Coordinators' Corner

Much of the news in the NEWSLINE is collected by a dedicated team of coordinators who call and fax to libraries and librarians in their regions to gather the latest news and ask preassigned questions of interest to all of us.

LRL coordinator's polled the states for news on hot topics for legislative sessions and the effect of election results on political shifts in leadership. And just for fun, Nancy requested they collect unusual, bizarre, or unexplainable reference questions presented to legislative librarians. News on hot topics for legislative sessions, election results, and unusual reference questions, identified as the BONUS question, are summarized below.

**JENNIFER BERNIER, Connecticut Legislative Library, reports for the following states.**

**CONNECTICUT**

Susan Southworth and Barbara Karp, Legislative Library, respond that educational equity, health care, juvenile justice justice/reform-crime prevention, and economic development will top legislative priorities in the next session. The November election brought a flip in majority control to the Connecticut Senate. Democrats now have a majority in the Senate, as well as the House.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Pamela Schofield, State Library, indicates hot topics are expected to be assault weapons ban, capital punishment, school choice issues, reorganization of state government/privatization, health care, same-sex marriage, utility restructuring, and sex education in schools. Democrats retain majority status in both chambers of the legislature.

**NEW YORK**

Deb Priest, New York Assembly Information Center, reports that welfare, Medicaid, criminal justice, and breast cancer are expected to be hot topics when the legislature reconvenes. The political makeup of the legislature remains unchanged.

**VERMONT**

Michael Chernick, Legislative Counsel, writes the upcoming biennium will focus on property tax reform and the related issue of public school financing. These issues have been a primary focus for several years. The elections brought a political leadership change to the Vermont Senate. The Senate now has a Democrat majority, 17-13 (last session Republican majority was 18-12). The House remains controlled by Democrats. The partisan realignment is expected to bring renewed attention to property tax and education funding issues, particularly the issue of equity. Campaign finance reform is another topic to be carefully examined. Voluntary expenditure ceilings or some form of public financing are some suggestions being considered.

BONUS:(not identified by state)

1. What is the State Song...Can you sing it?

2. Who is the mayor of the state?
3. Can you bury a "deadman" on your property?

**JOYCE GRIMES, South Carolina Legislative Council, reports for the following states.**

**DELAWARE**

Term limits, legislative pension reform, and health care are on the legislative agenda in the upcoming session. The elections did not change the political composition of the legislature. Ruth Ann Melson, Legislative Council, reports there are only two new members in the General Assembly.

BONUS: A caller announced she was legally declared dead, but wanted to know if she could still vote?

**MARYLAND**

The Maryland General Assembly is likely to consider the following topics: gambling, income tax reduction, brownfields, court reorganization, campaign finance, insurance-competitive rating; medical records-confidentiality, and banks selling insurance. There were no legislative elections in 1996.

BONUS: A new librarian received a telephone reference question around noon. The caller asked what is the age of consent? The new the librarian said she did not know the answer off hand, but would be glad to research the question and call back later that afternoon. The caller said that would be too late and hung up.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

The election results did not change the political party of the governor's office or control of the legislative chambers.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

There are no political changes in the governor's office or the legislature following the November elections. Voters, however, approved a constitutional amendment that grants the governor non line-item veto powers. North Carolina is apparently the last state to award full veto power to the governor.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

For her own state, Joyce reports that the legislature is expected to expand the all-day kindergarten program.

Last session the legislature provided state-funded all-day kindergarten for poor children only. The Governor announced plans to focus more on economic development in the 1997 session. She adds, that "it is expected to be a subdued session according to most in positions of leadership." There will be 32 new members in the 170 member legislature with 29 new members in the House. Democrats control the Senate and Republicans control the House; both parties increased their majority by two.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

The upcoming legislative session beginning February 12, 1997 is expected to focus on a new state budget, welfare reform, health care, and economic development. For the past eight years West Virginia has had a Democrat in the Governor's office. In November, voters elected Republican Cecil H. Underwood. He has the distinction of being West Virginia's oldest governor to take office (age 74) and the youngest governor to assume office (age 34) when first elected to that office in 1956.

**BONUS:** The library was requested to provide the voting records of all 134 members of the legislature!

#### VIRGINIA

**BONUS:** "Please fax the Code of Virginia and I need it within the hour."

**MARIAN ROGERS, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, reports for the following states.**

#### ILLINOIS

Bernadine Gretzer, Legislative Reference Bureau, reports that the Illinois House will switch to a Democratic majority, 60-58, but election results were not certified until November 25.

#### OHIO

News articles indicate legislative leaders and the Governor's chief of staff predict education funding (an Ohio Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the current system is expected next year), workers compensation, crime, and jobs will receive legislative attention in the next session. The enactment of the biennial budget will also be a top priority. Republicans continue to hold majorities in the House

and Senate and gained seats in both chambers. Senator Richard Finan, NCSL President-elect, will become the Senate President in January, following the retirement of Senator Stanley Aronoff. Speaker Jo Ann Davidson was re-elected to that position, but members of the minority caucus in the House ushered in a new slate of leaders, led by Representative Ross Boggs.

#### WISCONSIN

Marian Rogers indicates the legislature will reconsider the lottery tax credit for homeowners. A court recently issued an injunction indicating the tax credit is unfair to business and out-of-state property owners. Other issues on the agenda are the implementation of Wisconsin Works (W-2), a replacement for AFDC, cheese pricing, mining regulations, death penalty, school choice, campaign finance reform, property tax reform (education), health insurance for small business, and local spending limits. In November, Democrats retained a majority (17-16) in the Senate after a June 1996 special election. The Republican Party controls the Assembly (52-47). A new speaker will be selected as the current speaker ran for election to Congress.

**RONA MERTINK, Texas Legislative Library, reports for the following states.**

#### COLORADO

The elections did not change the political makeup of the legislature.

**BONUS:** A Buddhist monk wondered in and asked for the names of the "top Buddhist leaders in Colorado" because he wanted to plan a convention. Although the monk did not speak English very well, the librarians were able to give him information from the Secretary of State's office about the Buddhist congregation that had registered as a nonprofit.

#### KANSAS

Marc Galbraith, Kansas State Library, writes that gun control, property taxes, and abortion will be important issues in the next legislative session. The elections brought no changes to political leadership in the legislature.

**NEW MEXICO**

New Mexico legislators will consider gaming, government reorganization, prison construction/privatization, welfare reform, and water conservation in 1997. Democrats continue to control both the House and Senate, although Republicans gained a few seats in each chamber.

Tracy Kimball, Legislative Council Service, passes on an extra piece of news. New Mexico statutes and administrative code are online at [www.miche.com/code/nm/nm.html](http://www.miche.com/code/nm/nm.html). There is no charge to use the information, but the Miche Company requires registration and login.

**BONUS:** A university professor requested the calendar dates for actions on a right-to-work law considered in 1995. Tracy asked why the calendar date was important because the bill locator uses legislative days, not calendar days, and it can be quite time-consuming to convert the dates. The professor offered that he is looking for relationships between state actions on right-to-work laws and the stock market. Tracy wants to know if New Mexico is shaking the markets!

**OKLAHOMA**

Prisons and welfare (federal block grants) will receive legislative attention in 1997. The leadership of the two chambers did not change, but the minority party (the party of the Governor) gained enough seats to uphold a gubernatorial veto.

**BONUS:** Someone asked "Who are the three Texans who want to be leaders in other nations?" and "How do you start a new race?" The author of the latter elaborated he wanted the Bureau of the Census to add a category to the census form.

**TEXAS**

Property tax reform, smoking in the Capitol building (currently permitted), and Medicare are expected to be topics of high interest in Texas in 1997. Following the November elections, Republicans obtained a majority in the Texas Senate--the first time since Reconstruction.

**BONUS:** The classic, "I am calling for my [son/daughter], with a school paper due tomorrow..."

**JENNIFER BOTELER, Idaho Legislative Services Office, reports for the following states.****ALASKA**

According to Gina Spartz, Alaska Legislative Research Services, the legislature will focus on state spending cuts; the effect of new federal welfare regulations, especially on rural Alaskans living a subsistence lifestyle; juvenile justice; privatization of prisons; and tort reform. Republicans retain majorities in both the House and Senate.

**CALIFORNIA**

Linda Heatherly, Bureau Library, Office of the Legislative Counsel, responds that media reports indicate the legislature will implement welfare reform and motor vehicle emissions inspection programs. The recent elections resulted in Democrats taking control of the State Assembly. Democrats remain in the majority in the Senate.

**HAWAII**

Frances Enos, Legislative Reference Bureau, reports that hot topics for the upcoming legislative session are automobile insurance reform, same-sex marriage, and legislators' pension reform. There were no political party majority switches after the election, but two key senators lost re-election bids, shifting the Senate power balance. It is expected that the Senate will reorganize.

**IDAHO**

For her own state, Jennifer reports that there will be legislation concerning electric utility deregulation and telephone deregulation from the Special Legislative Committee on Public Utilities Deregulation. The Interim Committee on Managed Health care will introduce legislation regulating managed health care organizations. The legislation proposes significant changes to Idaho's existing Health Maintenance Organization Act and broadens the scope of regulation to include all managed care organizations. For the second time in four years, a ballot initiative proposed limiting property taxes to one percent of assessed value. The initiative failed, but Idaho's governor announced there will be legislation introduced this session to provide some type of property tax relief. The 1997 Idaho Legislature is one of the most Republican legislatures in the country with an 86

percent majority. Gains in both chambers brought the Republican majority to 30-5 in the Senate and 59-11 in the House.

**BONUS:** How many laws [fill in the state] are on the books?

#### NEVADA

Nan Bowers, Legislative Counsel Bureau, says that the January session will address restructuring of the electric industry, state tax distribution to local governments, financing for school construction, welfare issues, and managed care issues. As a result of the recent election, the Assembly is now controlled by a Democratic majority, 25-17. In the last session, Republicans and Democrats each had 21 seats. The Senate remains controlled by Democrats. Nan offers as background, that split votes form along geographic lines as well as party lines. With the population centered in the Las Vegas area, legislators from other parts of the state may band together to preserve their interests regardless of party.

#### OREGON

Dave Harrell, Oregon Legislative Library, responds that the hot topics for the Oregon Legislature in 1997 are campaign finance reform, initiative reform (23 measures were on the November ballot), and dealing with the passage of the initiative that rolled back property taxes to 1994 levels and placed a three percent maximum cap on annual property tax increases. There were no changes in the political makeup of the legislature; Republicans maintain majorities in both chambers. Governor Kitzhaber, Democrat, is in mid-term.

**BONUS:** Do any states require all households to maintain a firearm and ammunition?

**JEANNE BURKE, Nebraska Legislative Reference Library, reports for the following states.**

#### MINNESOTA

Hot topics are the state's role in financing new stadiums for professional sports teams; K-12 school funding; property tax; urban sprawl and land use planning in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area; crime; and higher education governance, including university tenure. There are no changes in political party

leadership in either chamber. The sitting speaker was not re-elected to the House, so there will be a change in that office.

#### NEBRASKA

Jeanne reports that the structure of state and local tax systems, telecommunications, state information policy, the state biennial budget, and social services reform are the expected areas of legislative interest in the upcoming session. There was no election for governor this November; legislative elections are officially nonpartisan.

#### MONTANA

Corrections (private prisons), education and state issues, and state-federal relations will receive legislative attention in the upcoming session. No political leadership changes to report.

#### NORTH DAKOTA

Marilyn Guttromson indicates that legislators are attending to water issues--flood control, access and use; also education finance--the State Board of Higher Education's spending authority, number of institutions and instructor pay; and welfare reform demonstration projects; community notification of sex offenders; health care reform; gaming contracts with tribes; and telecommunications deregulation and taxation. Voters approved a constitutional measure to increase House member terms from two to four years. The 98 House and 49 Senate members will serve four year terms, with one-half of each chamber elected biennially.

You may be interested in the report of the North Dakota/South Dakota Commission. Legislators appointed by the ND Legislative Council and the Executive Board of the SD Legislative Research Council met to discuss ways North Dakota and South Dakota could cooperate to more efficiently deliver government services. Contact ND's Legislative Council for a copy of the recommendations.

#### BONUS QUESTIONS (unidentified by state)

1. Do cows sweat? (for evidence that dogs were "worrying" cattle). The conclusion was that cows do not sweat.
2. Librarians found a mid-1980s amendment designed to protect "pterodactyls" as an endangered species.

Specifically, the amendment permitted hunters to kill one during each hunting season.

3. Any information on getting rid of crickets?
4. Which is colder, the North Pole or the South Pole?
5. How is Alessandra Mussolini related to Sophia Loren?
6. What is the name of Paul Bunyan's wife?
7. What is the phone number for the [nonexistent] Walter Mondale Library?
8. What was the price of a 1956 Chevrolet?
9. Find the percent of sodium phosphate in every detergent manufactured in the U.S.
10. Identify diseases transmitted by waterfowl crossing the border between Turkey and what was once the Soviet Union.
11. Who says librarians lead dull lives?

## Awards Update

### LRL Notable Documents Award

The awards committee has developed guidelines, which now include a stipulation that LRL documents are not eligible for the award. Marilyn Guttromson, ND, and Deb Priest, NY, served on the original awards committee. Beth Furbush, MT, will now serve as the awards committee's third member.

The winter issues of *NEWSLINE* and *State Government Research Checklist* will have criteria guidelines with the nomination form. March 1 is the deadline to submit forms and documents to the awards committee. Committee members make their evaluations in May and at the end of June, the committee selects the award winning documents. Announcement of awards will appear in the summer issues of *NEWSLINE* and *State Government Research Checklist*.

### Legislative Staff Achievement Award

As mentioned in *NEWSLINE*'s summer issue, the first annual Legislative Staff Achievement Awards will be presented at NCSL's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The NCSL Staff Chair will present the awards at the annual legislative staff luncheon.

Each of the nine NCSL staff sections and the staff chair of the Assembly on State Issues can nominate two individuals or offices to recognize their excellence in support of the work of their state legislature and

strengthening the legislative institution. The nominating process and the criteria used to evaluate nominees are decided independently by each staff section. Staff section members are free to submit nominations for the award.

Nominations should include a brief description of the accomplishments of the individual or office and why they deserve recognition. You may contact members of LRL's selection committee: Marilyn Cathcart, MN, Clare Cholik, SD, and Sally Reynolds, TX.

## NCSL Publications

Copies of all NCSL publications listed below are available from the Marketing Department 303/830-2200, unless otherwise noted.

### BOOKS

- Assessing Impacts on Small Business, Residential and Low-Income Customers (Item #4117)
- Stranded Benefits in Electric Utilities Restructuring (Item #4118)
- The British Electric Utility Restructuring Experience: History and Lesson for the United States (Item #4119)
- The Unintended Impacts of Restructuring (Item #4120)
- The Organization of Competitive Wholesale Power Markets and Spot Price Pools (Item #4121)
- Federal, State and Local Tax Implications of Electric Utility Industry Restructuring (Item #4122)
- The Electric Industry Restructuring Series (Item #4123)

### LEGISBRIEFS

- Mail Ballot Elections, Vol.4, No.37
- Standby Guardianships, Vol.4, No.38
- The Legal Rights of Gays and Lesbians, Vol.4, No.39
- Property Tax Relief, 1995-1996, Vol.4, No.40
- Compulsory Education, Vol.4, No.41
- Environmental Performance Partnerships, Vol.4, No.42
- Water Conservation and Transfers in Western States, Vol.4, No.43
- Rails-to-Trails, Vol.4, No.44
- Tied Chambers, Vol.4, No.45
- Transportation Act Reauthorization, Vol.4, No.46
- North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, Vol.4, No.47
- Requiring Welfare Recipients to Work, Vol.4, No.48

**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

Defaulting on Health Education Loans and Scholarships, Vol.21, No.9  
 Performance Contracting: State Savings through Energy Efficiency, Vol.21, No.10

**The deadline for the Winter edition of NEWSLINE is February 25, 1997. Send news about your library**

or significant legislative events in your state to your regional coordinator or Rita Thiemert at NCSL.

Thanks to the many staff section members who submitted information for this issue. NEWSLINE is published four times a year by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL, and is edited and formatted by Rita Thiemert.

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 West Virginia

