Chair’s Column
by Robbie LaFleur, Minnesota
LRL Chair

On the radio today I heard a quote by Bertrand Russell. "Change is scientific, ‘progress’ is ethical; change is indubitable, whereas progress is a matter of controversy." That might be true in our situations. We are concerned with budget changes and the difficulty of providing adequate services to support the legislative process in our states. There are others who might view the downsizing of government offices as a sign of progress.

Our Legislature in Minnesota is wrapping up a short special session that immediately followed our regular session. The omnibus appropriations bills are falling into place; ‘shared pain’ is the order of the day. Our Library faces a 15% cut for the coming biennium, on top of cuts we already received in the past two years. You can read about the budget challenges facing other legislative libraries in our “News from the States” section.

During our budget process this year, I heard a member’s comment that the Library wasn’t so necessary, “now that we have the Web.” Those are fighting words for a librarian, and I responded with a handout to all the key committee members, titled, “Not everything is on the Web.” Because I thought that other librarians might find occasion to do something similar, tailored to their situations, I have included an abbreviated version in this NEWSLINE. I posted the full handout at: http://www.leg.mn/lrl/pdf/NotEverythingIsOnTheWeb.pdf

Librarians embrace change, new technology, and new modes of providing information. It will be a definite challenge to work through these budget changes and deliver progress in information services. It’s great to have the support of dedicated colleagues in this endeavor.

Not everything is on the Web
(Note: This text is taken from a handout prepared for Minnesota legislators. Even though many examples are unique to our state, many of the categories and points are relevant to the services of other libraries.)

Types of materials not on the Web include many current and most older state agency reports, non-current Attorney General Opinions, Statements of Need and Reasonableness, Environmental Impact Statements, etc. For example, a caller recently asked for a copy of an Executive Order from the early 1980s. We have all of the Executive Orders in notebooks. “I couldn’t find them on the Web,” the caller apologized.

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NEWSLINE is printed and distributed through the generosity of LexisNexis.
Not everything on the Web is available for free. The Library pays for access. Non-current newspaper article archives are not free, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Star Tribune, and the Pioneer Press. In addition, photos, cartoons, ads, and charts that appear in print are often not available in the online equivalents. Due to the Tasini U.S. Supreme Court decision, articles by non-staff writers are not available in the online archives, including columns, and op-ed pieces by elected officials and Minnesota personalities. The Library's print clipping files are still invaluable.

Many reports on the Web are only there because we PUT them there. Library staff members scan mandated documents that are not already available electronically. A member of the public asked for a document that was required by the Legislature, Legislative Report on DNR Natural Resource Officers, published in January, 2003. It is not on the DNR's site; we were able to provide it electronically from our scanned copy.

Some things were on the Web at one time, but no longer exist electronically. Even if a state agency or an organization puts a report on the Web today, there is no assurance to the report will be available electronically in the future. The agency or the organization may not even exist.

Some information is on the Web only because it was created by Library staff and put there. Librarians compile, publish, and update legislative lists and statistics, including party control over time, special sessions, turnover in legislative seats, and vetoes since 1939. When the Politics in Minnesota newsletter highlighted a new list created by Library staff, the section was titled, "When You Really Want to Know, Go To LRL."

Information on the Legislative Web Site is available, organized, and secure due to the work of the Library. Legislative Library staff members coordinate the efforts of many legislative offices to present information in a usable manner. Library staff organize and program the joint pages that lead to the Revisor's bill tracking system, the Statutes, and the pages of the House, Senate, and joint agencies. Librarians answer many questions from constituents about use of the Web site, and give presentations on accessing legislative information on the Web Site to legislative staff and the public. Library staff members coordinate the Website security activities of the various offices, critical in this era of increasing security threats.

Just because it's on the Web doesn't mean it is easy to locate. Experienced librarians save staff time and locate the most authoritative information. Librarians locate the information that researchers need quickly, and provide training (formal and informal) on effective Web searching. The institutional memory and research experience of the librarians translate to efficient and thorough research.

Finally, even techies recognize the value of libraries and librarians. PC Magazine advises "Go back to the Library. Library reference departments are still great sources of information," in the May 27, 2003, cover story, "How to Find Anything Online."

"Yet even Google has a long way to go. The latest challenge is the Deep Web, which represents data that can't be crawled, not because it's in pages that the spiders can't recognize, like PDFs, but because it doesn't exist in static page form (except as answers to database queries), or because it's hidden behind authentication screens. And this information is often the cream of the crop: magazines, books, peer-reviewed journals. To get to it, you need to research the database yourself and then pay a hefty fee or, ironically, you need to go to a modern library (they're not so quaint and irrelevant, after all) that has access and, ideally, a reference librarian to help you get started."

Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee
By Arthur McNenany, Louisiana

Since my original flight into Quebec was canceled by the airline, I had to fly into Montreal and drive 160 miles to Quebec City. It was dismal because of the weather. It rained for almost the entire three-hour drive. Finding Le Chateau Frontenac was easy since it sits on one of the highest points in "Old Quebec". This beautiful old hotel was built in 1892 - 1893 by railroad barons and overlooks the St.Lawrence River.

Friday morning, May 2nd, was taken up with committee meetings and Friday afternoon with task force meetings. On Friday evening we were hosted to a reception and dinner at the Quebec National Assembly by the Deputy Speaker. Saturday was pretty much a rerun of Friday with committee and task force meetings. A group of us enjoyed a wonderful meal at the hotel. Sunday morning we
boarded a bus and took a day tour to Charlevoix Region. On the way there we made a brief stop at Montmorency Falls, which has a drop of 84 feet. The Charlevoix Region still had snow on the ground despite being May. Our hosts treated us to a great lunch at the Manoir Richelieu, which is a Fairmont hotel property that is built in the chateau manner and also overlooks the St. Lawrence River. The drive back to Montreal was in full sun and I especially enjoyed seeing all the geese heading north to their summer breeding grounds.

Profile of a Member Library: The New Jersey Office of Legislative Services
By Ingrid Hernquist, New Jersey

The New Jersey Office of Legislative Services Library provides professional research, library and information services to the New Jersey State Legislature, its officers, committees, commissions, individual members and their staff.

The library consists of three major components. The first component offers traditional library services. The library is a repository for 20,000 plus documents. We acquire and develop the collection according to the needs of the legislative staff. When the items come in they are cataloged and the online catalog is available on the legislative staff's desktop computers. The library maintains an extensive collection of legal, legislative, and government documents, newspapers, periodicals and general reference resources, as well as a comprehensive reference collection on New Jersey's constitutional, legislative and political history.

The library staff provides both general and legal reference services to all legislative staff including the Central Management Unit of the Office of Legislative Services, the legislators' district offices, and partisan staff. The requests that we handle include those for New Jersey legislative and government documents, including bills, statute sections, legislative histories, hearings, reports, New Jersey Administrative Code and Register, court cases and rules, annual and special reports of agencies and commissions, governor's executive orders, veto messages, reorganization plans and attorney general opinions. The district offices often call the OLS library first for legislative research. For example, one district office asked for us to do a 50-state search on vicious dog bills and statutes and newspaper clippings about pit bull attacks before introducing legislation on pit bull ownership.

The district offices also call for assistance in answering constituent questions. These range from volunteer fire fighters wanting to know what kind of benefits they are entitled to by law to a senior citizen who wanted to know whether or not she could keep a chicken as a pet in a senior citizen housing project.

We also provide and assist the legislative staff in accessing valuable online research databases. Many of these databases are available for the staff on their desktop while others are only available on the four computer terminals in the library. Databases include the library's own newspaper archives, WestLaw, Lexis-Nexis, Gann Law, and EBSCO as well as many other valuable databases available over the Internet. The library staff has posted a list of these databases on the library's Intranet page.

The second component of the library consists of the maintenance and updating of the New Jersey Legislature Website (www.njleg.state.nj.us). The site includes the roster of members with biographical information, committee and leadership listings, bills and bill statements, the New Jersey Statutes and Constitution, live and archived legislative proceedings, legislative reports, and transcribed hearings. We also answer the questions that the public addresses to the Webmaster via E-mail. These questions vary greatly from a student who was doing a paper on a hit and run accident resulting in death and wanted to know the criminal penalties to a person needing information about the laws and regulations on owning pigeons.

The third component consists of a daily clipping service. Our staff clips newspaper articles, editorials and other pieces from 14 newspapers that are of research and informational value to legislators and staff. The packet is available daily by 9:00 a.m. in hard copy and online. It is then filed in the library by subject and date. The subject files are available on microfilm from 1984 to 1997. In addition, each article is individually indexed by headline, journalist, newspaper name, subject heading and date and entered into a database so it is fully searchable by any word appearing in the article. Coverage dates back to January 1997. Requests for articles range from a legislator who wanted to see articles concerning cross burning to debarking of dogs. The library staff also maintains a database called Reports in the News.
which includes reports referenced in the newspaper articles, which are downloaded and made available to staff on the library's Intranet site.

We also receive and welcome questions from other state Legislative Research Librarians.

News from the States
Compiled by Robbie LaFleur, Minnesota

This spring we received several long responses to our plea for information – too many pages to include in their entirety! So this will be a synopsis. For the full text of the states' submissions, go to: http://www.ncsl.org/programs/lis/lrl/statenews0503.htm

We continued an examination of budget cuts and libraries by first asking whether budget cuts have had an effect on staffing in the Library or legislatively-wide. CO, MN, UT, and WI are in a situation that is probably common to many states, similar to what Marian Rogers (WI) wrote: "At this time, position vacancies in our bureau are not filled as people retire or move on to other job opportunities. So far, our budget cuts have been covered by not filling these vacancies, as well as keeping a close eye on bureau-wide expenditures." But cuts are happening. Joyce Grimes (SC) reported that they no longer have money for student help, and student duties have been reassigned to permanent staff. In Minnesota, we will have to reduce staffing with our 15% cut. David Harrell (OR) reported, "Our library suffered a 50% cut in FTE at the end of the 2001 session. I am now a 'gang of one.'"

Have you made cuts to your materials budget? What types of materials have you dropped, or what service cuts have you made in your library? Several states reported cutting periodical subscriptions to titles available online, whether on the Web or through Nexis. Arnold Weinfeld (MI) reported, "To put it simply, we have essentially dropped subscriptions to any and all periodicals, magazines, newspapers, etc. that we can pick up on-line." In Colorado, they negotiated a long-term contract for Lexis-Nexis service. They could only choose one legal online service, and discovered that a switch from Westlaw would save money in their situation. Karen Mau (HI) mentioned they are considering dropping access to statutes through Westlaw. Debbie Tavenner (OH) reported that they have dropped some legal materials in print. Though they currently have access to both Westlaw and Lexis, that may change in the future. Libraries are cautious and frugal in buying new materials. Penelope Dukes-Williams (TX) wrote that they are only ordering materials for the collection when requested by a legislative office. Shelley Day (UT) mentioned that, "No office supplies, equipment, furniture, or computers have been ordered unless absolutely necessary."

With Montana in a similar situation, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson noted, "The library will not be getting the new scanner we had been promised, dang it!" Dave Harrell (OR) added more bad news from his state, "I have been asked to reduce expenditures for materials and acquisitions by about 70% and am in the process of doing so. Not fun."

With states on different session schedules, some libraries are still waiting to see if they are facing cuts. Taran Ley (IL) said, "Too soon to tell--the budget process is just beginning." Penelope Dukes-Williams (TX) said the budget for 2004-2005 has not been finalized.

Joyce Grimes added a positive spin to budget problems. "Our fiscal crisis in the library has provided a wonderful opportunity to promote the use of the Internet as a resource tool! Sole practicing librarians staff many of the libraries in our local law community. It is only through sharing our collections and knowledge that we are able to keep our heads above water!" It is refreshing to network with a group of folks that not only understand the need to share, but also promote working smarter.

In other news, Molly Otto (CO) said the Colorado Legislative Council recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. She also had a positive experience working with three library graduate school interns. "It has been rewarding and enriching working with these students, and I highly recommend it." Marian Rogers (WI) reported that they will be relocating, closer to other legislative service agencies, and to one floor, rather than being spread over four floors. Marilyn Johnson (ND) reported on their recent special session, the first time the governor had brought back legislators immediately following session since 1937. "Being part of history is exciting but sometimes being too close is nerve-wracking." Marilyn also related how a blown motor on their microfiche reader/printer led to a fortunate equipment purchase and the ability to e-mail legislative
histories. Read more about these stories in the fuller Web report, at: http://www.ncsl.org/programs/lis/lrl/statenews0503.htm

Directory Updates Needed!

The 2003 LRL Directory needs your updates! Due to budget problems, the release of the directory has been temporarily delayed. We ask that you re-send any updates to NCSL so we can get the 2003 edition out soon.

Please double check your listing in the 2002 directory and send any changes by June 13 to Janna Goodwin, 7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230, fax 303-364-7800 or janna.goodwin@ncsl.org

LRL’s New Liaison

Hi! My name is Janna Goodwin, and I will be staffing the librarians’ staff section. Unfortunately, I have been appointed under very sad circumstances, but I am eager to get to know you all and continue to make LRL a strong, resilient group.

Just to help you get to know me, I was born in Minnesota and reared in Iowa. I attended Drake University and am currently investigating the University of Denver’s Master’s program. Hobbies include reading, writing, Greek mythology, web page design and watching football (go Vikings!). I am the proud parent to one “kid”—a beautiful gray Nebelung named Meursault.

At NCSL, I work on a variety of different issues. The “big” topics that I handle include computer crime, sports (go Vikings!), electronic surveillance and ticket scalping. In addition, I dabble in a little web site work (although I am not responsible for the layout or look of NCSL’s web site—wink!).

I’ve always regarded LRL with high esteem—all of you have been warm, friendly and enthusiastic whenever I met you at past Annual Meetings. I look forward to working with you in the future.

---

Professional Development Seminar
October 15-18, 2003
Portland, Oregon

Admit it! You need to visit the “real” Portland this fall. The City of Roses wants you to visit. You need to spend constructive time with your colleagues. You need to spend relaxing time with your colleagues. You need to visit the State Capitol and learn about some of Oregon’s legislative innovations. You need to visit a few of the wonderful Portland libraries. You need to stroll along the banks of the Willamette at twilight, or through the Pearl district, or hear some great jazz, or visit the Columbia River Scenic Area, or visit the Oregon Garden, or dip your toes in the Pacific.

So please, mark your calendar and make your plans to visit us here on the left coast. We don’t have a sales tax, you don’t have to pump your own gas, and I guarantee it won’t snow!

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Annual Meeting Highlight:
"All the News That’s Fit to Find."
NCSL Annual Meeting
Wednesday, July 23rd - 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Do you need to search for news on a tight budget? Which search engines and news sites are best? Are some news stories missing, never to be found again? Join Richard Geiger, Research Director, San Francisco Chronicle, and Donna Scheeder, Deputy Assistant Director for Information Research, Congressional Research Service, as they explore free and inexpensive news sources, and describe what's not there and why. Special attention will be paid to good sources for tracking public policy issues.
### Preliminary Agenda
**Legislative Research Librarians**  
**NCSL 2003 Annual Meeting & Exhibition**  
**San Francisco, California, July 21-25, 2003**

LRL Sessions are in **bold**.

#### Monday, July 21st

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<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| **1:00 pm - 2:30 pm** | **Technology and Office Management**  
**Co-sponsored by Leadership Staff Section and National Association of Legislative Information Technology** |
| **3:15 pm - 5:00 pm** | **Programming Versus Content in Building and Maintaining Legislative Web Sites**  
**Co-sponsored by Research and Committee Staff Section** |

#### Tuesday, July 22nd

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<td>7:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Opening Plenary</td>
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<td><strong>3:30 pm - 4:30 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tour of San Francisco Chronicle</strong></td>
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<td>5:00 pm - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>NCSL Welcome Reception</td>
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#### Wednesday, July 23rd

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<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open</td>
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| **12:00 n - 2:00 pm** | **Legislative Staff Luncheon**  
**Presiding: Gary Olson, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency, Michigan, and NCSL Staff Chair**  
**Speaker: Bruce Tulgan, Founder, Rainmaker Thinking, Inc.** |
| **4:30 pm - 6:00 pm** | **All the News That's Fit to Find: Web News Sites**  
**Co-sponsored by the Legislative Information and Communication Staff Section and the National Legislative Program Evaluation** |
| **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm** | **LRL Reception**                                                     |

#### Thursday, July 24th

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<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:15 am - 10:30 am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plenary</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12:00 n - 2:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>LRL Luncheon and Awards</strong></td>
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| **2:15 pm - 5:00 pm** | **Homeland Security and Civil Liberties**  
**Co-sponsored by Legal Services Staff Section** |
| **6:30 pm - 9:30 pm** | **California Social Event**                                           |

#### Friday, July 25th

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<td>8:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:15 am - 12:30 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>NCSL Policy / Business Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12:30 pm - 2:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
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NCSL Publications

Reports:
- State Higher Education: Is It Measuring Up?
- Welfare Reform State Policy Choices series: Job Retention and Advancement Strategies
- Energy Efficient Schools: Policies and Opportunities
- Energy Security
- Tax Policy Handbook for State Legislatures

LegisBriefs:
- "Mastering the Rules"
- "Family Support: Strategies to Strengthen Families"
- "Funding Crime Information Improvements"
- "Addressing Truancy, Preventing Delinquency"
- "Long-Term Care Waivers and the Independence Plus Initiative"
- "The Effect of Retiring Dentists"

Goodbye to a Good Friend
By Marilyn Johnson, North Dakota

Rita Thaemert came to LRL in 1996: In the spring issue of that year, Newsline reported the previous staff section liaison, Chris Pattarozzi, lost her position as NCSL faced a budget crisis. "In order to correct a structural deficit, NCSL recently was forced to downsize its staff. Unfortunately, Chris' position was among the several that were cut to balance the NCSL budget." Now for similar reasons Rita met the same fate. Makes one ponder the wisdom of assuming the LRL mantle at NCSL.

For the last seven years, Rita has given her energies to assisting the Section with details in producing our newsletter and the annual directory of our counterparts, and coordinated our annual and professional development meetings. Returning from LRL meetings, Rita carried the Section's administrative concerns to the organization's hierarchy. She has been our trusted voice at NCSL. Thank you, Rita, for your service, par excellence. LRL wishes you well in whatever venture next awaits you.

Editor’s Note: If you would like to keep in touch with Rita, I'm sure she would love to hear from you. She regarded many of LRL companions as dear friends. Her address is:

Rita Thaemert
2028 South
Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80210

Her phone number is: (303) 722-2203
LRL Newsline Supplemental
Spring 2003 Supplement

"News from the States" for the Spring, 2003, issue of the NEWSLINE focused mostly on answer to questions about how the libraries were faring during budget cutting times.

Colorado
Molly Otto reports:
We have made a few budgetary adjustments here at the Colorado Legislative library and council in light of the current reductions in our state budget.
Staffing for the library has not been reduced, so there are still 2 full time librarians in the library-the Assistant Librarian and myself. However, one support staff and a research staff position within the Council have both been vacant for at least a year, and it is not expected they will be filled in the near future. Also, a senior staff person will be retiring at the end of year, and that position will be filled internally within that unit, which will leave that unit short a position. Finally, there was some funding set aside to hire a human resources/personal manager, but that money was diverted to a higher priority, putting that position "on hold" as well.
As far as reductions in our materials budget, we are eliminating some of our print periodical subscriptions, if they are available on-line, either directly on the Internet or through our Lexis-Nexis service.
A major cost savings measure we negotiated is our Lexis-Nexis contract. We could only one on-line legislative/legal info. database, so we had to decide between L/N and Westlaw. We previously had a contract with Westlaw, but then L/N gave us a free trial as a basis of comparison. They also offered us a good price, which will save us substantial money now and over the next 5 years, compared to Westlaw and the same 5 year projection. Also, most of our research and legal services staff are pretty satisfied with L/N.
Finally, I reduced the cost of our annual contract we have with the vendor for our library automation system (Notebooks for Lotus Notes). We were paying quite a bit of money for services which we no longer need, now our system is up and running.
I probably gave you more information than you need, but we are pretty fortunate in that the legislature does support us and the legislative council and the services we provide them. On the other hand, I realize we need to reduce some of "the fat", so the state can still operate-in the red or black-which remains to be seen!

Hawaii
Karen Mau reports:
We were fortunate this year to have a no growth budget. The Legislature did explore reducing all legislative agency budgets by 10%; thank goodness it did not pass!
Have you made cuts to your materials budget? YES!
What types of materials have you dropped, or what service cuts have you made in your library?
We are reviewing cancelling statutes (available through Westlaw) and serials.

Illinois
Taran Ley reports:
Too soon to tell--the budget process is just beginning.

Michigan
Arnold Weinfield, Michigan Policy Library, reports:
To put it simply, we have essentially dropped subscriptions to any and all periodicals, magazines, newspapers, etc. that we can pick up on-line.

Montana
Lisa Mecklenburg Jackson reports:
Although Montana Legislative Services did have to make some cuts in its budget, these cuts did not affect staffing. Most cuts were to the equipment budget. (The library will not be getting the new scanner we had been promised, dang it.)

Thankfully, we have not had to make any cuts to the materials budget. Of course, our materials budget is quite small as it is.

**North Carolina**

*Calibri Martin reports:*

We've been fortunate to maintain our standard session staffing in the Library, with a full permanent staff and 2 temporary session staff (one FT, one 4/5 time). Having suffered some significant attrition last year among professional legislative staff in general, we've also been fortunate to be able to fill those positions. In the Library, we've made modest downward adjustments to our spending. Our greatest void is in the tax research area, where we've been unable to make significant improvements to the collection, including not being able to expand our online legal research services. Overall, we've weathered the budget storm fairly well.

**North Dakota**

*Marilyn Johnson reports:*

In preparing the legislative library spending proposal for the 2003-2005 biennium I was asked to submit a 95% budget request. To do that we postponed converting the 1999, 2001, and 2003 bills as introduced to CD-Rom.

**Ohio**

*Debbie Tavenner reports:*

The budget situation has created a frugal situation at the Ohio Legislative Service Commission, but no drastic cuts have been imposed. The Library's receptionist was assigned to another area of the Commission to provide staffing to fill in for pregnancy and family leaves. I hope it is not permanent. In the mean time the three of us are doubling up on duties to get things done. In fairness, I must say that in 2002 for a period of about 10 months, the Library was assigned an extra staff member, who filled in for a pregnancy leave in the library, but also overlapped with the Library receptionist for about 6 months. So for a good part of last year we had extra help. It is anticipated that there will be minimal staff salary increases in 2003 and none in 2004.

This year I have not had to make any major cuts in library purchases. In the last year and a half there were cuts to a few things. Shepard's in print and US Law Week were dropped. Premise was discontinued not because of budget concerns, but because of incompatibility with the network. (LSC subscribed to several Ohio legal databases and USCA.) It freed up about $4500, however. Staff continue to have access to the resources or comparable resources through LEXIS and WESTLAW. Frequently, it is mentioned that if things get tighter, one of the online systems will have to go. That would affect the entire office, not just the library, because everyone on staff has either a LEXIS or Westlaw & LEXIS password.

**Oregon**

*David Harrell reports:*

Our library suffered a 50% cut in FTE at the end of the 2001 session. I am now a "gang of one". I have been asked to reduce expenditures for materials and acquisitions by about 70% and am in the process of doing so. Not fun.

**South Carolina**

*Joyce M Grimes reports:*

How are current or proposed budget cuts affecting staffing levels in your legislature and library? In past years the library has depended upon part-time undergraduate, graduate and law students to support its operations. During this current fiscal year and proposed budget, no funding is budgeted for staff support. Duties previously performed by students have been reassigned amongst permanent Council staff. Full time staff is stretched already because of the budget reduction and loss of personnel serving in Operation Iraq Freedom.

Fortunately, some of the services are not time sensitive. Unfortunately, the Legislature and all of state government are performing the minimum level of service. No immediate fiscal reversal is anticipated.
2. Have you made cuts to your materials budget?

Print subscriptions reduced by 50% and discontinued exchange agreements.

3. What types of materials have you dropped, or what service cuts have you made in your library?

Statute mandates that the Legislative Reference Library fund the annual code supplements updates to various federal, state and county entities. Faced with shrinking appropriations, the Legislature passed a proviso effective FY2002-2003 to charge entities for cost of annual code supplements. Working with the Legislature’s Information and Technology Department, the Legislative Reference Library developed a computerized database to process orders and meet audit accounting procedures.

Texas

Penelope Dukes-Williams reports:
Here in Texas, the budget for 2004-05 has not been finalized however, at the beginning of the year all of the state agencies were requested to cut their spending by 7% for the remainder to the fiscal year. We have cut back on our serials subscriptions and are only ordering materials for our collection when requested by a legislative office.

Utah

Shelly Day reports:
The Utah Legislature faced its first major budget shortfall in the 2002 5th Special Session, which reduced its budget by 5.02% for FY 2001-02. Then in the 2003 General Session, its budget was reduced another 4.6% for FY2002-03. Our office (Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel) has been cut a total of 10.5% to date. The legislative research library contained within the Information Center does not have its own budget, but falls under the umbrella of our office budget.

We have only lost fulltime staff that have moved out of state or changed jobs. Replacements to our lost office staff have not been and are not going to be made. Fortunately, no fulltime staff have been lost because of budget cuts. To avoid letting go of fulltime staff because of budget shortfalls for FY 2001-02 and FY 2002-03, our office found other ways to compensate for the inconvenience.

Paid intern positions were eliminated for law clerks and research assistants, but we still manage to get cream of the crop "externs" and we currently have five.

- All staff were instructed to refrain from ordering materials that were not absolutely necessary for their course of work. Many staff did not renew or simply canceled subscriptions. If publications are available online, our office has virtually eliminated any purchases in hard copy unless absolutely necessary.
- The number of Utah Codes ordered (annotated and unannotated) was greatly reduced (as several staff had never opened the previous year codes).
- No office supplies, equipment, furniture, or computers have been ordered unless absolutely necessary.
- Mailings have been consolidated.
- Legislative fees for publications, copies, cds, etc., that we produce have increased.

The Information Center created the greatest savings for the office with many of these changes. Yes, we had "kind of" a contest.

Just a little over one year ago, we increased our Information Center staff from two to three persons and last year we acquired a part-time secretary. No new hires, just added responsibilities to current secretaries who wanted more to do.

In the past two years our Information Center has acquired more responsibilities within the Session Intern program (besides our training and assisting them, Clay manages them), Legislators Back to School Week (Shelley), staffing task forces (Mark just graduated with his MPA and has served on two task forces), Development of Website including Kids Page and Civic Education for Public Outreach (Shelley), and most recently, staffing one interim committee as secretary (Clay, who began his legislative experience as a session committee secretary 18 years ago, became Assistant to the Speaker for eight years, then joined our office just a little over one year ago). You can see we use our employee skills to the maximum when in need. Our motto here is, "Glad to help!"
Virginia

Cheryl Jackson reports:
Virginia answers for the Newsline question about budget cuts and other news:
1. How are current or proposed budget cuts affecting staffing levels in your legislature and library? In the library, there is no effect on staffing levels. For the legislature as a whole, there have not been layoffs, but many positions are remaining vacant.
2. Have you made cuts to your materials budget? Yes.
3. What types of materials have you dropped, or what service cuts have you made in your library? I had a plan for three levels of cuts: small, medium and large. The large cuts would have absolutely gutted us. As it turned out, we had to go with the "small" cuts (15%). We discontinued all of our newspapers (including the local paper) and some periodicals and books. Much of the money was found by renegotiating our account with Lexis. We anticipate that this is not the end, so there will probably be a "Part II" to this story.

Wisconsin

Marian Rogers reports:
As a whole, state agencies (including the legislature and legislative service agencies) have had budget cuts. As the deliberation of the 2003-2005 budget bill (2003 SB-44) continues, more cuts are expected. At this time, position vacancies in our bureau are not filled as people retire or move on to other job opportunities. So far, our budget cuts have been covered by not filling these vacancies, as well as keeping a close eye on bureau-wide expenditures. Currently we have a limited-term library assistant for a maximum of 10 hours per week. We may not be able to fill this position when she finds full-time employment. The legislature has reduced the number of legislative messengers hired during session, some legislative staff has been cut, office budgets have been reduced, the telephone hotline and documents room staff and services has been cutback and consolidated, and mailboxes for individuals and organizations are no longer maintained.
In our agency, travel has been restricted and we are cautious with our supplies budget. Books are no longer automatically purchased or subscriptions renewed without considering the usefulness of the publication. We've found local used bookstores to be a thrifty treasure trove for some books--rather than paying full price for a new, unused copy. With careful management, we are hopeful we can continue making these cautious acquisitions.
What types of materials have we dropped? Some pricey reference publications are purchased every other year and we no longer purchase supplements to select publications. It's hard to say what effect not having part-time library support staff will have on our library services, but one thing is certain--it will slow down our retrospective conversion project. For the time being, we hope we can continue to offer our same level of services.

Other News From Legislative Libraries

Colorado

Molly Otto reports:
The 64th session of the Colorado General Assembly ended on May 7th. I think many people were relieved to have made it through another interesting session. The last three days were very intense, as the Republicans pushed through the re-districting bill (S.B. 03- 352), which re-drew the 7 congressional districts. The Democrats immediately challenged the bill and filed suit, so it will go to the courts, as it did in 2001. Judge Coughlin created the "original" map, since the legislature could not agree on the district boundaries during one of the 2001 special sessions.
The Colorado legislative council celebrated its 50th anniversary this past March. The celebratory luncheon was well attended by former and current staff members. Along with that, both the director of Legislative Council, Charlie Brown, and the director of Legal Services, Doug Brown (no relation to Charlie), have both announced their retirements effective later this year. We will be losing two dedicated and knowledgeable directors, with years of experience and institutional memory between them.
Finally, I have had the opportunity to work with three different library graduate school interns since October of last
year. Two of the students attend the University of Denver, and the other intern is from Emporia State. It has been
rewarding and enriching working with these students, and I highly recommend it.

North Dakota

Marilyn Johnson reports:
Nearly tying the record for the longest legislative session in history, North Dakota legislators adjourned after using
76 of their allotted 80 days. That was April 25th. On May 5 legislators returned at the call of the Governor for a
special session. That last time a Governor brought legislators back immediately following a session was in 1937.
Being part of history is exciting but sometimes being too close is nerve-wracking. Legislative Council staff attorneys
particularly spent long hours researching legislative procedures for dealing with this unusual situation. In three days
of special session legislators adjusted the three vetoed bills originally causing gubernatorial distress. Last seen the
House and Senate Republican Majority Leaders were holding a "we'll make this work" press conference with our
Republican Governor. (The 2003 Legislative Assembly brought together 31 Republicans, 16 Democrats in the
Senate and 66 Republicans and 28 Democrats in the House.) Since the Governor announced he would sign the
special session bills, the Legislative Assembly for 2003 should be over. Three vetoed bills specifically bringing the
troops back to Bismarck concerned teacher raises, purchase of technology by the state, and status of corrections
officers.
Just at the end of regular session our newest of the two microfiche reader/printers blew its motor. Instead of lasting
its projected five years the machine collapsed in three. You gotta be tough to work up here in the North. We'll
replace the motor, keep our old trusty backup reader/printer, and purchase a workstation that reads fiche to a
computer.
When the just ordered computer arrives, we'll be able to e-mail legislative histories! Users who come in person can
store histories on disc, print if they prefer, or e-mail the legislative histories to themselves. With a bit of equipment
money left this current biennium, we lucked out! We're also planning to produce, in addition to microfiche, 2003 legislative history records on disc.
Yesterday Audrey and I learned we may be remodeled! (And there are those who say for me it's too late.) We'll start
planning reconfigurations of our library work space shortly. Wonder who's finding the money and where? Ain't me.

South Carolina

Joyce M Grimes reports:
Our fiscal crisis in the library has provided a wonderful opportunity to promote the use of the Internet as a resource
tool! With email and sharing collections in the local law libraries at the Supreme Court, Law School, and
Attorney General's offices, we avoid duplicating expensive print collections. Solo practicing librarians staff
many of the libraries in our local law community. It is only through sharing our collections and knowledge that we
are able to keep our "heads above water"! It is refreshing to network with a group of folks that not only understand
the need to share, but also promote working smarter.

Virginia

Cheryl Jackson reports:
I apologize for not sending this in earlier, as it's been a year now, but Alice Winn left the Reference Center. She
moved back to Delaware with her family. We have a great new Research Associate, Michele Howell. Michele has
been a paralegal in Richmond and Georgia, and has an educational background in English and education. She's a
savvy researcher with a wonderful personality and strong service orientation. She fits right in here at the Reference
Center, and we are thrilled to have her. I know the LRL'ers will enjoy getting to know her.

Wisconsin

Marian Rogers reports:
Recently, the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization authorized the Legislative Reference Bureau's relocation
across capitol square to One East Main Street. We have been located at 100 North Hamilton since early 1990 when
the LRB (and all personnel and agencies in the capitol's north wing) were moved for the capitol
renovation/restore project. Our relocation will place the bureau in the same building and in close proximity with
two sister legislative service agencies: Legislative Council and Legislative Fiscal Bureau. This new location will place all the LRB on the same floor, instead of spread over 4 different floors as we are now. When the Department of Administration completes the approval process and after the space is modified to fit our needs, we anticipate our move will occur in mid- to late-Fall 2003.

A correction to the Fall 2002 Newsletter.
The notice: "Edith Woodward, former librarian, passed away October 18, 2002. Edith, active in NCSL during her tenure with the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (1969-1983), was 85 years old." was attributed to Wisconsin. The news was from Debbie Tavenner, Ohio Legislative Service Commission.