



# Legislative Research Librarians NEWSLINE

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Fall 2007

## Chair's Column

*Cathy Martin, North Carolina*

As the present now,  
Will later be past . . .  
The times they are a-changing  
Thanks to Bob Dylan

I found myself humming "The times they are a-changing" recently and it's still a bit stuck in my head. Dylan's song speaks of major social and political change, but the words could have been written for librarians and others who work with "living history."

Times and all else certainly change, and keep changing, including the usual changes in our staff section leadership. Our thanks go to Kristin Ford (ID) for her accomplished chairmanship during 2006-2007. As she moves into the Imme-



*Chair Cathy Martin, North Carolina*

mediate Past Chair's role and I become Chair, the 2007-2008 Executive Committee is rounded out by Jackie Curro (Chair-Elect, MD) and Elizabeth Lincoln (Secretary, MN). And our immediately past past chair Tracey Kimball (who received the 2007 LRL Legislative Staff Achievement Award) will no doubt continue her fine service to the staff section.

We're very fortunate to have Janna Goodwin continue as our NCSL staff liaison, and we also have Regional Coordinators, (who haven't had active roles in recent years, but we're looking for ways to use them effectively).

Change brings its losses and gains and we've been saddened by the loss of Connie Yankus, our friend and colleague from Ohio. Lynn Randall from Maine and perhaps others have

retired. But we've been delighted to gain colleagues "from all over" as active members. We were joined at Annual Meeting in Boston by librarians from Canada and the Library of Congress/Congressional Research Service, and were pleased to get better acquainted with our Boston colleagues, who put

on such an excellent program for us. And our colleagues from Canada and Puerto Rico not only attended our Joint PDS with RACCS and LSSS in Santa Fe, but also participated in a panel on legislative services beyond the states.

Look forward, look back, be here now – what's a librarian to do? The truth is, we live in all those worlds!



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Legislative Research Librarians  
Staff Section

National Conference of  
State Legislatures  
7700 East First Place  
Denver, Colorado 80230

Cathy Martin, North Carolina  
LRL Chair

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**Chair's Column** *continued*

We've moved smoothly from the "cutting edge"/technology theme of our PDS in Wisconsin last year to a more historical focus this year. You'll read inside about the historical database program and tours of historical buildings and collections in Boston. And in Santa Fe we continued with themes of honoring and preserving the past: programs on archival preservation, Native American law, and "innovations in services" illustrated beautifully how technology can be used to preserve, protect and ease access to history. Read about those – and more — inside this issue too.

Please take advantage of all LRL has to offer, as your participation is key to our continued success. Start by marking your calendars for the 2008 Annual Meeting in New Orleans and the 2008 PDS in Sacramento (dates TBA, but sometime in October) — the agendas will be full and the company is guaranteed to be outstanding!

Hope to see you soon,

Cathy

PS: I've been fortunate to meet and correspond with so many LRLers over the years, but many of you "don't know a thing about me" (as we say in the South), and one purpose of this column is to introduce myself.

I've been the Legislative Librarian at the North Carolina General Assembly since 1990, following graduation from the UNC School of Information and Library Science and a professional internship at the Library of Congress. Before that, I practiced law for many years, pri-

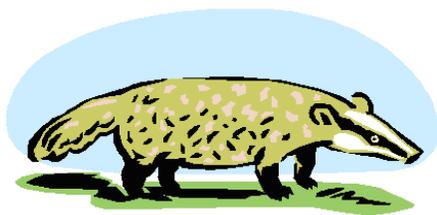
marily in a legal aid office. Then I decided to go back to school.

Why? I had the misguided notion that law librarianship would return me to a more academic way of life, perhaps more peaceful than the upheavals inherent in practicing law the way I did. Imagine my surprise – and yes, delight – to reappear as a legislative librarian, practicing librarianship with an intensity similar to that of practicing law! It's awful and fun, wonderful and frustrating, ultimately rewarding. But I STILL can't explain what I do to anyone not working in a legislative environment!

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### Wisconsin News

by *Marian Rogers, WI*



On June 20, 2007, the LRB Library launched a new online catalog (LRBCat) and redesigned library home page. In addition to improved searching and sorting options, the new catalog offers several exciting new features. Visitors to the catalog can peruse RSS feeds from various sources including NCSL, GAO, and the LRB. The library home page also offers lists of "Noteworthy Titles" held by the library about various topics of current interest. In addition, by logging in, patrons can save their most often used searches, place holds on library materials, renew library materials, and make suggestions for items to purchase. In the near future, we plan to add access to online subscription-based resources, such as Health Affairs, CQ Researcher, and full-text databases. Visit the new catalog at: <http://lrbcatalog.legis.wisconsin.gov>

We have also become full members of OCLC on WorldCat. We are setting up our WorldCat subscription for the public (via LRBCat) to show a special icon in the search results when a title is held by another legislative library. To develop the list, we used the OCLC membership directory to search for the holdings symbols of all the legislative libraries that are OCLC members. To ensure we didn't omit a library, we will appreciate if LRL libraries email their OCLC symbol so we can be certain to include every full-OCLC member legislative library in our custom list. Email: [lrb.library@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:lrb.library@legis.wisconsin.gov)

The Wisconsin government's new fiscal year began on July 1; however, no state agencies were required to cease operations if a budget was not passed by that date. (Wisconsin law provides that spending may continue at the existing appropriations level until a new budget is enacted.) The Senate and Assembly passed different versions of the budget; a Conference Committee began meeting on July 25 in an attempt to hammer-out differences in the various proposals. When no accord was reached after over 100 days of deliberation, the Governor and his staff stepped-in to mediate the situation. In late October, Conference Substitute Amendment 1 to 2007 SB-40 was adopted and concurred in. The Governor acted on the enrolled bill (with some partial vetoes) on October 26.

## 2007 Annual Meeting

### Boston, Massachusetts

#### August 5-9, 2007

#### Tour of the Boston Athenaeum

*By Susan L. Blixt, Arizona*

As we hurried through the rain to the Boston Athenaeum at 10 ½ Beacon Street, we barely noticed the exterior of the building and were unprepared for the interior beauty and the treasures within this library. The Boston Athenaeum started out not only as a library but as an art gallery and meeting place. The majority of the early art collections was sent to the Museum of Fine Arts in 1876. The present day five-story Athenaeum features many wonderful art works intermingled throughout the



*L-R: Tracey Kimball (NM); Jackie Curro (MD); Ingrid Hernquist (NJ); Shelley Day (UT)*

book collections, such as: the bust of Benjamin Franklin by Jean-Antoine Houdon, paintings by John Singer Sargent, a bronze casting of a shepherd robbing an eagle's nest, and the busts of Jesus and Satan. The fifth floor terraces overlook the well-known historical Granary Burying Ground. The Athenaeum's many cozy rooms and tranquil atmosphere make it a wonderful place to read or relax.

The Boston Athenaeum was founded in 1807 and moved to its present location upon the completion of the building in 1827. As one of the largest membership libraries in America, its collections are over 600,000 volumes that feature Boston's history; New England area and Massachusetts state history; biographies; English and American lit-

erature; and the arts. Some of the more noteworthy collections include the Confederate States imprints, books from the libraries of George Washington and historical material from the King's Chapel Library. One unique item is a book titled, *The Highwayman*, (James Allen's death-bed confession) which is bound in his own skin. Obviously, this little tidbit was not advertised during our tours but can be found on the Athenaeum's website. Other collections include early Boston newspapers, private press publications, rare scholarly books, maps, engravings, photographs, and old manuscripts.

The Athenaeum remains a meeting place for discussion groups from the latest new fiction novels, mystery stories, poetry, culinary works, and world history to more scholarly subjects. Athenaeum members also have access to the JSTOR database of scholarly journals, the database of Boston African Americans, and a variety of other databases about the material found in the special collections and archives. The Athenaeum takes its mission seriously in the preservation of Boston's history and culture as displayed

by its conservation and physical care of its collections.

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#### Boston Social Law Library

*By Jackie Curro, Maryland*  
*LRL Chair-Elect*

We began our tours of Boston libraries at the Social Law Library where Robert Brink, Executive Director; June Strojny, Director of Library Operations; and Robert Brink, Reference Librarian, welcomed us in the John Adams Courthouse. The SLL, founded in 1804 as a membership library, is the oldest law library in the US and was given space in the Courthouse in exchange for the use of the collection. This relationship continues today as the SLL provides services to the Massachusetts judiciary and private attorneys, and serves as the county law library for Suffolk County. The SLL receives state funds, but the approximately 14,000 members' fees and other private sources account for 40% of its funds.

The SLL collection includes the current and superceded codes, and session laws for all 50 states. The SLL also publishes 26 databases of Massachusetts administrative and judicial decisions.

Our tour included the copy center and central processing, where like some other larger libraries, looseleaf filing is outsourced and an overwhelming sounding 130



*Robbie LaFleur (MN) and Susan Blixt (AZ)*

titles are sent out to be bound each month. We ended our tour with the rare book room where books published prior to 1854 or of limited printing are kept.

\* \* \* \* \*

### House and the State Library

By Nan Bowers, Nevada

Monday afternoon our touring group of librarians met in front of the Massachusetts Statehouse, a truly impressive and historic building on Beacon Hill, across the street from the Boston Common. The cornerstone was laid July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1795 by Governor Sam Adams, Paul Revere and the Grand Master of the Masons, and the current building and grounds cover two city blocks.



*Pamela Schofield (MA) leads the tour of the state library.*

Our tour guide walked us through the legislative chambers and halls, filled with marble, murals, mosaics, many portraits, marvelous statuary and magnificent stained glass. The history, art, and tradition is everywhere in the State House, yet it also includes the working offices of the governor and legislature. The tour included views of the Senate chamber and the House chamber, where we saw the 'sacred cod', the five foot legendary carving that hangs high in the chamber.

Tucked in the beautiful State House is the Massachusetts State Library, established in 1826. Pam Schofield, Legislative Reference Librarian, and Alix Quan, Head of Reference, spoke about the history of the library, the collections and services, and led a tour of the behind the scenes areas of the old building. The

library stacks include materials on the third, fourth, and fifth floors of the building, and provide materials for government workers and the public. We saw the Zimmer Index card files, an index of newspaper articles of legislative interest compiled from 1878-1937, and the maps, diaries and old directories of the special collections area.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Historical Legislator Databases

By Karen Mau, Hawaii

It began with no Internet, no microphone and a full house anxiously awaiting this presentation. But the few technical difficulties were no match for our presenters. Alix Quan, Pamela

Schofield, Clare Charlson, Steve Mirsky, and Robbie LaFleur began discussing their library's experience in developing a historical legislator database, and everything soon fell into place.

Alix Quan and Pam Schofield, Legislative Research Library, Massachusetts, discussed the Zimmer Index. In 1892, the Massachusetts legislature passed "An Act to Authorize the Preparation for the State Library of an Index of Current Events". Commonly known as the Zimmer Index, it is a card index to events of public interest, which would be useful to Massachusetts legislators and to the public. Examples of entries to the index includes obituaries, political conventions, speeches and letters, dedications of memorials and buildings, news of taxes, strikes, other disasters, and visits from foreign digni-

taries. Through a grant, they were able to digitize approximately 200,000 cards in the Zimmer Index, and later another index covering 1893-1960 was digitized in 2006. In order for the cards to be searched electronically, the subject line of each card was transcribed.

They also maintain a Legislator Biography File, which includes information on legislators and other elected officials from 1780 to the present. A form is sent out to new legislators asking for biographical information and a photograph. Photographs that are collected are added to a Legislative Souvenir collection called the "Bird Books". The Bird Books contain the pictures of legislators dating back to the 1880's. To learn more about the collections of the State Library of Massachusetts visit them at [www.mass.gov/lib/](http://www.mass.gov/lib/).

Presenting South Dakota's legislator historical listing database was Clare Charlson, Legislative Research Council. Information on legislators



*Four tours in one day!*

were kept on paper documents that were difficult to use and maintain so they decided in 1999 to make them available on the web. The information includes name, gender, birth and death date (if deceased), legislative body, years in office and other comments. South Dakota's legislator historical listing can be found at <http://legis.state.sd.us/historical/index.aspx>.

Steve Mirsky from the Connecticut State Library described the Con-

**LRL Business Meeting Minutes**  
**August 8, 2007 \* Boston, Massachusetts**

necticut General Assembly members' database, beginning from 1776 through 2005. Maintained on a Microsoft platform, ASP, this project started in 2000 with 16,000 paper index cards and finished in 2003 with ten people working on the project. The database can be searched by last or first name, town, chamber or party.

<http://www.cslib.org/connga.asp>

Robbie LaFleur, Director of the Legislative Reference Library in Minnesota, highlighted their database called Minnesota Legislators Past and Present. The database was created using Access, all of the work was done in-house and it took approximately two and half years to complete. Information gathered on each legislator came from a variety of sources including historical society books, blue books, legislative manuals, news clippings, and directories. Robbie stressed that only information that is widely available in public documents were added. Also accessible are obituaries and some photos. They hope to make it a rich multi-media database. <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/legdb/index.asp>

Although this type of database is a constant work in progress, the information presented is an invaluable resource to users. Each library provided thoughtful insights and strategies into how they created their database and inspired all of us to create one for our own state.

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*Hanging out, L-R:  
 Robbie LaFleur (MN)  
 Karen Mau (HI)  
 Ingrid Hernquist (NJ)  
 David Harrell (OR)  
 Janna Goodwin (NCSL)*



### 1. Welcome

Kristin thanked the Thomson West Company for sponsoring the lunch, and thanked our host state librarians, especially Pamela Schofield and Alix Quan for their hard work.

### 2. Connie Yankus

Kristin presented a plaque to be given to the Ohio Legislative Services Commission Library in honor and memory of Connie Yankus who died July 16, 2007. The plaque read: In Memory of Connie Yankus Our Friend & Colleague with Great Appreciation for her Contributions to the Field of Legislative Librarianship and to the Legal Research Librarians of NCSL, August 2007.

A card was made available for messages.

### 3. Notable Documents Awards

On behalf of the Notable Documents Committee, Kristin presented this year's awards for nine reports from five states. Rakesh Mohan, Director, Idaho Office of Performance Evaluations; and Warren Deschenaux, Director, Maryland Office of Policy Analysis, accepted the awards for their states.

### 4. Legislative Staff Achievement Award

On behalf of the Legislative Staff Achievement Award Committee, David presented a plaque to Tracey, the recipient of the 2007 Legislative Staff Achievement Award.



*David Harrell (OR) congratulates  
 Tracey Kimball (NM),  
 2007 LSAA Recipient*

### 5. By-Laws Amendment

As proposed, the By-laws of the LRL Staff Section were amended by unanimous vote, to add the words: LRL is part of the legislative staff division of NCSL. This amendment was made at the request of NCSL.

### 6. 50-State Non-NCSL Compilations

Tracey reported on the status of the non-NCSL compilations project. She asked for examples of subject lists that might be used instead of the NCSL subject list. The committee next will establish selection criteria to be

used and a structure for displaying them on the NCSL website. Tracey asked for volunteers to join the committee. Current members are: Frances Thomas (LA), Debbie Tavenner (OH) and Jan Wolfley (NV).

### 7. 2007 PDS IN SANTA FE, NM

Tracey reported that plans are in the works to provide transportation to the airport in Albuquerque on Thursday afternoon. She is looking for examples of the

use of wiki's for the Innovations in Services to Members and the Public session.

8. PDS – 2008

Cathy reported that librarians in California, Colorado, and Minnesota had indicated that they would be willing to host the 2008 PDS, although Minnesota librarians had said that it would be more convenient for them in 2009. After discussion California was selected by unanimous vote.

9. LSCC Update

Cathy reported that an E-Learning page is now on the NCSL website. One of the resources there is Introduction to E-Learning for Legislative Staff. The Marketing and Outreach Subcommittee is talking about reorganizing the NCSL Webpage and would like LRL to be involved in that effort.

10. Other Business

Janna discussed the appearance of banner ads (paid advertising) on the NCSL website. She said they will not appear on LRL pages.

11. Officers

Elizabeth Lincoln (MN) was nominated to be the new Secretary for LRL, and was elected by unanimous vote. Jackie Curro became the new Chair-Elect, Cathy Martin became the new Chair, and Kristin Ford became the new Immediate Past Chair. On behalf of the LRL Staff Section, Cathy presented Kristin with a gift as thanks for her grand service as Chair.

*Submitted by Jackie Curro  
LRL Chair-Elect  
August 20, 2007*

## 2007 Professional Development Seminar

Santa Fe, New Mexico

August 5-9, 2007

### Conveying Your Message Effectively

*By Eddie Weeks, Tennessee*

John Daly, the Liddle Professor at the University of Texas, opened the Santa Fe festivities with his talk on “Conveying Your Message Effectively.”

The key to conveying a message is clarity: You must identify what you want to get across to your audience. Identifying the problem is the key: Defining the problem limits the possible solutions. You must then ensure that the audience understands and agrees with your meanings; they may have different definitions of the words you're using. For this reason, you must be redundant (but not repetitious): Say the same thing, but use different language. Involve the audience in your message; their needs will shape their perceptions. Whenever you're trying to convey a message to a group of decision-makers, also first consider WIIFT: What's In It For Them?

Professor Daly's talk was wonderful and informative; unfortunately, a key part of conveying a message was overlooked: time management. He was unable to complete his presentation.

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### History of New Mexico

*By Mary Camp, Texas*

Tom Chavez, PhD., shared his deep knowledge and understanding of the influences of various cultures and peoples throughout the history of New Mexico and how they are still a

part of current New Mexico law today. In particular, Chavez described how the Spanish, European, and Native American traditions and cultures laid the groundwork for New Mexico law when it became a state in 1912. He emphasized that in communities all over New Mexico, many of the tribal ceremonies and traditions are still practiced today. Chavez believes that in Santa Fe, in particular, people from many cultures will be able to live together and practice various religions and beliefs forever. Dr. Chavez ended by saying “decedents of all the people who came here are still here”.



*Immediate Past Chair Kristin Ford (ID) admires some Native American art.*

### Sources for Native American/ Tribal Law

by Kristin Ford, Idaho  
Immediate Past Chair

This informative session began with a presentation by David Selden, director of the National Indian Law Library in Boulder, Colorado. He provided a handout on Basic Indian Law Research Tips, and also "A Look at Indian Law Research Through 5 Questions." He showed us how to research five different examples of Indian law questions. Many answers can be found using the National Indian Law Library, both under their resources pages ([www.narf.org/nill/resources/rlinks.htm](http://www.narf.org/nill/resources/rlinks.htm)) and also as active links through their online catalog ([www.narf.org/nill/catalog/catalog.htm](http://www.narf.org/nill/catalog/catalog.htm).) Even full-text documents of tribal codes, constitutions or other tribal documents can be located free online.

David also kindly offered personal assistance to librarians in need of tribal laws or documents. He further recommended the website of the National Congress of American Indians (<http://ncai.org>) as a good resource. Next, Bidtah Becker, attorney for the Navajo Nation, demonstrated the University of New Mexico School of Law web site, which hosts the Tribal Law Journal web site (<http://tlj.unm.edu>). In particular, she recommended the New Mexico Tribal Court Handbook on that site. This resource outlines whether a particu-

lar tribe has a constitution or other particular documents, and if so, how to get them. She also recommends contacting law schools and lawyers in the geographic area of the tribe for local Indian law information, as it is a small community and sometimes it is best just to pick up the phone.

*Many thanks to  
Cathy Martin (NC) ,  
Kristin Ford (ID) ,  
Jackie Curro (MD) and  
Nan Bowers (NV)  
for contributing photos  
from Boston and  
Santa Fe!*

### Beyond the States: Legislative Services In Canada and Puerto Rico

by Kristin Ford, Idaho  
Immediate Past Chair

Valerie Footz, of the Alberta Legislature Library in Edmonton, provided some background information on the Alberta province of Canada. Alberta is the fourth largest in population of Canadian provinces, and is the wealthiest, thanks to their oil sands in the north. She then gave a demonstration of the web site for their unicameral Assembly ([www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca)), which includes a fun virtual tour of their capitol, the Alberta Legislature Building. For information on Canadian parliaments, she recommended the Canadian Parliamentary Review's web site (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/infoparl>), and also the web site for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association ([www.cpahq.org](http://www.cpahq.org)).

Next, Juan Carlos Ortega, Director of the Tomas Bonilla Feliciano Legislative Library in San Juan, Puerto Rico, gave a power point presentation highlighting services of his library and of the Puerto Rico Office of Legislative Services ([www.oslpr.org](http://www.oslpr.org)). They offer reference service in person, via mail, fax, telephone, email and even instant messenger. Most legislative documents are primarily in Spanish, but many important documents, such as the Constitution, Code and Rules, are also available online in an English translation. The Puerto Rico Legislature is bicameral, although there have been attempts to change to a unicameral system. The



Chair Cathy Martin (NC-right) chats with our Canadian colleagues Val and Yvonne Footz.

House broadcasts live proceedings. Mr. Ortega also described special collections in his library such as FBI records on activities of persons on grounds of political ideology, and historical records of House and Senate meeting minutes (from 1900) and transcripts of the floor proceedings dating back to 1946.

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## Developing Underperformers

By Anne Rottmann, Missouri

Presenters for the Developing Underperformers session were E.M. Miller, Director of the Virginia Division of Legislative Services, Karl Aro, Executive Director of the Dept. of Legislative Services in Maryland, Marti Harkness, Staff Director, Criminal Justice Unit, OPPAGA in Florida, and Patrick O'Grady, Executive Director, Legislative Research Unit in Illinois. As the title implies, each presenter described their offices and situations and then proceeded to outline things they did and techniques they used when faced with an underperforming employee. Each stressed the importance of communicating clear expectations, goal setting and providing proper training to the employee followed by feedback and evaluation so they could succeed. Identifying a motivational technique that works and incorporating that into an evaluation situation was one suggestion that was illustrated. It was also suggested that looking at yourself as the supervisor for ways you might have inadvertently given out a wrong message was something else to consider. It was advised that you be clear, concise, fair and be willing to accept diversity. One presenter suggested a book that he had found useful to him. The title is How to get control of your time and your life by Alan Lakein.

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## School of American Research Tour

Betsy Hauge, MN

On Monday afternoon, the Legislative Librarians group toured the School of American Research Library and the Indian Arts Research Center. This year the School of American



Anne Rottmann(MO) and Jackie Curro (MD) enjoy the New Mexico sun.

Research celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was established as a center for the study of the archaeology and ethnology of the American Southwest. The School is currently located on beautiful grounds donated by the White sisters, Amelia Elizabeth and Martha Root. These fascinating women were at the center of the arts/cultural world in Santa Fe.

Part of the school's mission is to further the work of Native American scholars and artists. The Indian Arts Research Center was our first stop on the tour. Led by knowledgeable docents, we learned about the Center's extensive collection of Native American pottery, baskets, and other art forms.

Laura Holt, Librarian for the Catherine McElvain Library at the School of American Research, guided our group for the rest of the tour. As we moved from the Indian Arts building to other buildings on the campus, we passed by the sisters' small burial area for their pet dogs. White markers neatly indicate twenty Afghan Hounds and Irish Wolfhounds.

Our tour of the Catherine McElvain Library was brief and interesting. The purpose of the Library is to serve the research needs of the staff and scholars-in-residence. The

Library has a strong basic anthropology collection and obtains many items via library loan programs. The Library building is a wonderful space characteristic of the Pueblo Revival style and blending in perfectly with the rest of the campus. I think we all thoroughly enjoyed the tour of this unique and beautiful school. Thank you again to Laura, Tracey and Janna for arranging everything.

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## Legislative Staff Services in New Mexico Capitol/Library Tour

By Debbie Tavenner, Ohio

Five staff members presented at an information session on staff services to the New Mexico Legislature. The first three presentations were from the staff of the central, non-partisan legislative agencies were created in statute, and the last two were staff representing the chief clerks in the House and Senate.

Paula Tackett, Director of the  
Legislative Council Service

<http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/legisagencies.asp>

The LSC was created in 1951 to assist and cooperate with the New

Mexico Legislative Council. It is a central non-partisan staff office. Duties include drafting legislation and performing legal and research services for legislators and for the executive and judicial branch. It is also the main agency that responds to the public for information requests. The agency staffs interim legislative committees, publishes numerous publications helpful to legislators and the public, and provides technical services to standing committees. Year-round there is a staff of 50, with approximately 13 lawyers, but during session the staff doubles. The Agency

assists the House and Senate finance committees and prepare fiscal impact reports on all legislation. It drafts the budget bill all the way through the process. It publishes the monthly LFC Newsletter, and the Post Session Fiscal Review. During the interim the Committee holds public hearings on its budget recommendations and finance and management issues of state government.

*Pauline Rindone, Director, Legislative Education Study Committee*

<http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/lesc/lescdefault.asp>



*Tracey Kimball and Zelda Abeita (NM) show off their digs.*

is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the Capitol and its grounds. Paula is the third director.

*Cathy Fernandez, Deputy Director, Legislative Finance Committee*

<http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/lfc/lfcdefault.asp>

In 1957 the Legislative Finance Committee was created. It is composed of eight senators and eight representatives and has approximately 38 permanent staff, including 12 program evaluators and 2 economists. During session a few extra staff are added. The Committee makes budgetary recommendations to the leg-

islature and proposes legislation. Staff assists the House and Senate finance committees and prepare fiscal impact reports on all legislation. It drafts the budget bill all the way through the process. It publishes the monthly LFC Newsletter, and the Post Session Fiscal Review. During the interim the Committee holds public hearings on its budget recommendations and finance and management issues of state government. During legislative sessions staff assist the regular education committees in the Legislature by providing analyses of all public school legislation, and assist in the initial stages of drafting legislation. Various publications are prepared including an Annual Report to the Legislature.

*Cynthia Singdhillon, representing the Chief Clerk of the Senate*

*Jack Webber, representing Chief Clerk of the House*

Both clerks described similar duties and responsibilities during the session and out of session. The staffing levels increase during the session from approximately 4 full-time staff in each chamber to 250 in the House and 200 in the Senate. During session the clerks do all the payroll functions any large employer would do, plus run the chamber, prepare bills, print journals, etc. Out of session the smaller staff concentrates on constituent work.

The presentations were followed by a tour of the Capitol and the Legislative Library. The Capitol tour included both chambers, a special stop at the Buffalo, an unusual sculpture/artwork by Holly Hughes of Socorro, NM, crafted from “retail and handwoven, magnetic tape, film, wire/quilting appliqué,” and the Governor’s reception area. The Capitol, completed in 1966, is a round building modified to the shape of the Zia symbol, an ancient symbol of the sun.

Browsing the shelves of the Legislative Library and listening to the work done by Tracy and Zelda revealed commonalities and differences. Many of the volumes on the shelves are seen in all of our libraries. For the libraries that do a lot of work with “legislative history” the librarians were surprised to learn New Mexico “doesn’t have any.” The library was very space challenged and Tracy noted that a space consultant would be advising her soon. Another product that will be ready soon is a comprehensive New Mexico legislator database.

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**Plenary: Publications of Native American and Tribal Laws**

*By Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota  
LRL Secretary*

Bill Odean, Director of Content Operations at Thomson West Publishing, provided information on the Thomson West venture into tribal law publication. Currently, five tribal codes are available through West including codes from the Cherokee, Mille Lacs Band, Navajo, and Muscogee tribes. Thomson West offers a variety of services to tribes—experience with codification of laws, comprehensive subject indexing, and editorial enhancements. The company can provide other services such as web hosting or the creation of underlying files for drafting. He mentioned that an increasing number of law schools require the study of Indian law.

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**Legislative Intent**

*By Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota  
LRL Secretary*

Two prominent judges from New Mexico, one current and one former, gave their engaging thoughts on the use of legislative intent by the courts.

Paul J. Kelly, Jr, a former New Mexico legislator and a judge with the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, began by giving an overview of statutory construction. “We all begin with the text but in certain situations we must rely on secondary sources.” Textualism rejects legislative intent but other approaches invite courts to look at legislative intent and secondary sources for illumination. But the legislative process begins and ends with the legislature. He said, “I don’t feel slighted at all when the legislature passes a bill

to override my decision. It is in your power to put your words on the page and your ability to rewrite it.”

Gene E. Franchini, retired Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, favors relying on the text. He said, “All the secondary sources have one problem: they could be wrong.” He provided several pieces of advice to legislative drafters: avoid ambiguous words, be as precise and concise as you can be, and don’t make statutes too strict or stringent so as to tie the hands of the judge. New Mexico’s very short legislative session—30 days one year and 60 the next—produces inconsistencies, unconstitutional provisions, and irreconcilable passages.

“If no one challenges them, the statutes go on their merry way as stupid or as unconstitutional or illegal as they may be.” He went on to say, “Don’t worry about it—99% of the stuff you guys write will never be tested.” “A state’s supreme court justices legally and lawfully become mini-legislators. The system also allows the New Mexico Legislature to reverse it next session.”

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**Innovative Services**

*By Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota  
LRL Secretary*

Several legislative librarians presented innovative services they have implemented in their libraries. Tracey Kimball, Senior Librarian for

the New Mexico Legislative Council Service, discussed the value of wikis in libraries, presented a number of ideas for using them, and shared several articles on the topic. Next Molly Otto, Manager of Library Services for the Colorado Legislative Council, showed her state’s legislator biography database. This rich resource includes information for over 3100 current and former legislators culled from obituaries, journals, press books, and official legislative records. Teresa Wilt, librarian from the Nevada LegNevada has a court system that will consider legislative intent so this information is in high demand. Teresa described the program they’ve developed and shared some of the details in how this service was implemented.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Archival Preservation**

*By Heidi Mays, Pennsylvania*

Mr. Al Regensberger of the State Records Center and Archives of New Mexico gave a very informative presentation about the basic principles of preservation. He introduced several practical ways to introduce and integrate a collection maintenance program that would be good common sense solutions to libraries. These would include monitoring the environment, limiting light and adding security.

He made an interesting point regarding microfilm and digitization projects. Microfilm is still the preservation standard, but for ease of access digital records are preferred to limit handling.



**LRL Business Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2007 \* Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**1. Welcome and Recognition of Host State Folks**

Cathy Martin (NC) welcomed the attendees, thanked Tracey Kimball (NM) for her hard work in planning and hosting the conference, thanked Janna Goodwin (NCSL) for her assistance, and initiated introductions around the table. Tracey Kimball (NM) gave each attendee a beautiful silver pin made by her favorite silver jewelry designer. Val Footz (Alberta) gave each attendee a leather bookmark with the symbol of the Alberta Legislature on it and a pin from Alberta.

**2. Follow up on Annual Meeting Policies**

The secretary wrote this down as an agenda item but no one can remember what it means.

**3. LRL Listserv**

Cathy Martin (NC) initiated a discussion about the legislative librarians staff section listserv by asking whether the listserv should be open to the public or closed to just members of the staff section. Cathy commented that she was surprised recently when a non-legislative person responded to an inquiry she sent out. Most of those commenting were very concerned about confidentiality. Even without a name, the person asking a particular question may be easily discerned. Janna Goodwin (NCSL) reported that she manages the list, though there are no formal policies other than no lobbyists may participate. She generally allows any library in government to participate. However, there are a number of people on the list who are not affiliated with legislative or state libraries. One suggestion was to limit participation to libraries with a legislative purpose.

At this point, the archives of the listserv and older issues of Newslines are not accessible to those without a password or access from legislative networks. Tracey Kimball (NM) mentioned that she wrote about an interesting question she received in Newslines a few years ago. Although she didn't identify the patron, the patron found the story online and was unhappy to find it posted. Cathy asked whether the executive committee should think about this issue further and recommend a policy. Meeting attendees were positive about this suggestion. Janna will look into the policies of the listservs of other staff sections. Any ideas or comments on this topic should be sent to the executive committee for further discussion.

**4. StateNet —Jackie**

Jackie Curro (MD) reported on StateNet. Jackie is a member of the NCSL committee working on providing access to StateNet for all legislative staff. Jackie described StateNet as a system to track all fifty states' bills. NCSL and StateNet have been working together to provide access. She reported that the pilot project has been in place since May. The original plan was to provide access to all legislators and all legislative staff in all fifty states by December 2007. It appears there will need to be an additional pilot project to work out technical difficulties that have emerged. NCSL began developing its own system but eventually joined forces with StateNet, a private company that was already offering this service. The system will be searchable in a variety of ways including keyword searching, Boolean searching, and searching for bills at a certain point in the legislative process. There will be canned searches on hot topics, too. Jackie reported that the NCSL committee is discussing how training for this system would be handled. Kristin Ford asked whether legislative librarians could volunteer for the second pilot project.

**5. Non-NCSL 50-State Compilations Committee Update**

Tracey Kimball reported on the progress of the Non-NCSL 50-State Compilation project. Librarians at the conference in Madison last year volunteered but the committee didn't become active until this summer. The committee worked hard to come up with a workable list of subject headings. They began looking at NCSL's subject heading list but there were far too many topics. The group came up with a good basic list. Tracey provided hand-outs on the guidelines for the list. The main guidelines are that the list should come from a governmental source and be less than three years old. There is a need for an ongoing maintenance committee. The current committee, chaired by Tracey, has agreed to keep going for a while. Several people mentioned the 50 state topic lists available on Lexis and West. Many of the attendees felt the Lexis and West lists were not specific enough for their purposes. Meeting attendees thanked the members of the committee for their hard work.

*continued on back*

*Submitted by Elizabeth Lincoln  
LRL Secretary  
September 21, 2007*

**9. Adjourn**

A gift was given to Tracey and to Janna as a token of appreciation for their hard work on the conference.

**8. Additional Business**

Thoughts sent to her during Connie's illness. Debbie spoke in remembrance of Connie for a few moments. Debbie Tavener (OH) read a letter from Connie Yankus's husband thanking everyone for the kind words and

**7. Connie Yankus Remembrance**

(Alberta) commented that the IFLA conference would be held in Quebec City in July 2008. reach out to the western Canadian legislative librarians who may find travel to California worthwhile. Val Footz LSCC will take into account the LRL staff section preferences. Kristin Ford (ID) suggested that the LRL staff section September being a little too close to the annual meeting making it hard to attend both. Janna reports that the RACSS and LSSS and so met with them in early September this year. Several people commented on early seminar should be held. Traditionally the conference has been held in October; the librarians chose to meet with the executive committee about hotel possibilities, etc. Cathy asked whether there were strong feelings on when the Development Seminar to be held in Sacramento, California next fall. Dan is enthusiastically relaying information to Cathy Martin (NC) and others have been corresponding with Dan Mitchell (CA) about the 2008 Professional

**6. 2008 Professional Development Seminar in Sacramento, California**

*Santa Fe Business Meeting Notes (continued from page 11)*

Legislative Research Librarians  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
7700 East First Place  
Denver, CO 80230