



Legislative Research Librarians NEWSLINE

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Spring 2008

Chair's Column

Cathy Martin, North Carolina

“No Country for Old Men” was a great flick, but isn't the title also (generically) fitting for legislative staff? The movie/book title is actually the first line of Yeats' poem “Sailing to Byzantium,” which chronicles the transition from youth to eternal life. It's a timely metaphor for legislative life as we know it.

I'm in a bit of a funk today, because it's my Director's last day of work here after 35 years of legislative service. Within the last few months, several other high-level, highly experienced staff members (including 2 other directors) have also retired or announced they'll retire following our summer session. Many of them talk of turning the reins over to younger staff or newer blood, or otherwise cite the desirability of change.

I get their point. But I also see valuable resources being lost, including institutional history and a mature understanding of how things “really get done around here.” Many of you are facing similar losses and we can assume the legislative institution will survive. But I urge all of us to look beyond the institutional losses and see how our libraries can be stabilizing forces during these changes. We've always been the repositories of institutional knowledge – but what an opportunity this is to demonstrate our immutable value to the legislative institutions we serve. Let's give

'em what they need!

I'll miss my Director and will always be grateful for his terrific support for the Library and for this particular Librarian. He understood the value of networking and supported my involvement in LRL over the years, including my service on the Executive Committee. Thank you, Terry Sullivan.

Speaking of LRL service, we have a full new roster of Regional Coordinators, with expanded duties this year. The full list of RCs and regions is inside this issue, but let me say thank you to new RCs Molly Otto (CO), Karen Mau (HI) and Ingrid Hernquist (NJ), and to incumbents Jennifer Bernier (CT) (standing in for new appointee Carrie Rose [*editor's note: see why on page 6!*]), Marilyn Johnson (ND), Eddie Weeks (TN) and Marian Rogers (WI). In the upcoming year, Regional Coordinators will be calling on you for help as they begin a project updating the “LRL Member Website” page, a very valuable but outdated resource.

Registration for Annual Meeting in New Orleans July 22-26 is in full swing, so sign up soon to guarantee good lodging. The LRL executive committee is currently planning programs for Annual Meeting and for the Professional Development Seminar in Sacramento October 15-18, so please

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legislative
research
librarians

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*

contact any of us on the committee with your suggestions and comments. Let us know how LRL can help you improve skills and knowledge, and how the staff section can otherwise help you in your work.

And finally, are you looking for a way to honor that outstanding LRLer you know? Let the Nominating Committee for the Legislative Staff Section Achievement Awards know by April 30th – that would be the committee of former recipients Tracey Kimball (NM)(2007) and Nan Bowers (NV)(2004). Read more about the nominating process inside this issue or on the LRL web page.

Regards to all of you,

CATHY

Actual Questions Asked of Librarians

- Do you have books here?
- Do you have that book by Rushdie, 'Satanic Nurses'? [Actual title: 'Satanic Verses']
- I am looking for a list of laws that I can break that would send me back to jail for a couple of months.
- Can you tell me why so many famous Civil War battles were fought on National Park sites?
- Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?
- Do you have a list of all the books I've ever read?

from http://www.guy-sports.com/humor/stories/story_library.htm

2008 Professional Development Seminar Sacramento, California October 15-18 Hyatt Regency Sacramento

With more than 20 area museums and hundreds of great attractions, your visit to California's State Capital will be culturally rich and adventure-filled as well as informative and instructive. Sacramento has miles of recreation trails, scenic waterways, and great golf courses. The programs in this seminar are focused on current developments in information and library management, technology and legislative research. Join your colleagues from other states in exploring new ways to think about your work and learn new skills to make your job easier. Come away refreshed by the experiences we will share.



Preliminary sessions include:

- Delivery of Information
- Current Awareness
- California State Agencies - Introduction to Their Services
- StateNet Training
- User Needs & Assessment with Changing Technologies
- Legislative Website Functions and Design
- State Capitol and Library Tours
- What's Up in Your Library? Roundtable



More information coming soon, or go to
<http://www.ncsl.org/lrl/pds08.htm>

2008 Legislative Staff Achievement Award

It's time to recognize the outstanding service provided by legislative libraries and librarians throughout the states. We need your help in identifying candidates for the annual LRL awards.

Please send us the name of a person or institution - it can be yourself or your library - using the criteria listed on the website as a guide, along with a description of specific accomplishments and LRL involvement.

The nominating committee members this year include past recipients Tracey Kimball (NM) and Nan Bowers (NV). Fax or email your nomination by **Wednesday, April 30, 2008** to Janna Goodwin, 303-364-7800 or janna.goodwin@ncsl.org). While there is no monetary award, it is a privilege to be recognized and listed as exceptional representatives of our profession.

The award will be presented at the NCSL Legislative Summit in New Orleans, July 22-26, 2008. Many of you are the only legislative librarian in your state, and you provide tremendous services. There may be no other LRL member that knows enough about your job to nominate you - so go ahead and write up your successes. Isn't it about time you got some recognition from your peers?

Don't put this off too long don't wait until the deadline. Think about it and send a nomination to a member of the committee now, or by April 30th

Award criteria can be found at
<http://www.ncsl.org/lrl/LSAA08.htm>



2008 Legislative Summit

July 22-26
New Orleans

Get Jazzed!



This 2008 Legislative Summit--a meeting of ideas, solutions, innovations and connections--is in New Orleans--America's European masterpiece, a city of style and taste, the birthplace of jazz, July 22 - 26.

You'll "want to be in that number" when thousands of legislators and staff gather in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center for the most important conference of the year.

During the week you'll be busy at the more than 180 issue forums that examine the most important concerns you are facing in your legislatures today. You'll meet with colleagues from across the nation to work together on American's greatest concerns in an atmosphere of bipartisanship. You'll hear from the country's most notable issue experts.

Preliminary LRL Agenda

Tuesday, July 22

- LRL Meet & Greet
- In the Line of Fire: Protecting & Recovering Collections at Risk
- NCSL Executive Committee

Wednesday, July 23

- LRL Breakfast
- Collaborative Project between the Internet Archives and the Ontario Legislative Assembly
- Staff Section Megasession
- Louisiana Social Event

Thursday, July 24

- Legislative Staff Breakfast
- Louisiana Supreme Court Library Tour
- Issue Forums

Friday, July 25

- Issue Forums
- LRL Business Meeting & Luncheon
- Historic New Orleans Collection Tour
- Louisiana Social Event

Saturday, July 26

- General Session Plated Breakfast

Please consult the LRL website for updates to the agenda
<http://www.ncsl.org/lrl/am08.htm>

Registration information can be found at
<http://www.ncsl.org/summit/>

State Profile: Colorado Legislative Council Library

by Molly Otto and Gay E. Roesch, Colorado



The Legislative Library is one of the support services staff sections in the Office of Legislative Policy Research. The library was started in 1973 and has grown from a single library shelf to more than 8,000 print and electronic resources. The library's primary mission is to supply nonpartisan library services and resources to members of the General Assembly and their staff; local, state, and federal agencies; and members of the public. Researchers from the private and public sectors may use the resources in the library only, because the collection does not circulate outside the building.

The library is located in the basement of the State Capitol building, and has two full-time professional librarians to assist with reference and research questions. The library is in close proximity to the Colorado State Archives, the Supreme Court library, the State Publications library, the Colorado Historical Society, and the Denver Public Library. As a result, library staff can quickly locate and obtain electronic and/or hard copy resources not available in the Legislative Library collection.

Charles R. McCarthy, "the father of the special library movement," recognized the importance of the legislative libraries. Through his association with the Wisconsin Progressive Movement, he promoted legislative reference services as a means to improve legislation and government. As a result, every state currently has a

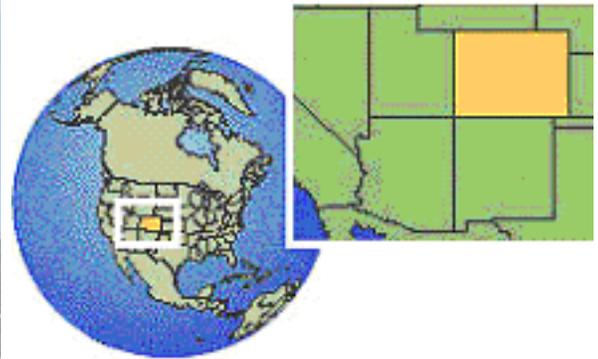
legislative library, and the Legislative Research Librarians (LRL) staff section is part of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Two unique resources that the Legislative Library staff has developed and maintains is the Colorado Legislator History in-house database and public website. The website address is: http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/LegislatorBiography.htm

The database and website include a

a member of the General Assembly; General Assembly members who need a summary of their legislative activity; or individuals conducting genealogical research.

The Legislative Library staff assists researchers on the local, state, national, and international levels with locating and using significant and unique resources instrumental in legislative research. These print and electronic resources are useful in examining and clarifying the history, development, and enactment of legislation.



legislative profile of each member who has served in the Colorado General Assembly, from territorial days through the current session. Each entry includes the member's name, district, and party; the number of years the member has served in the House and/or Senate; legislative leadership positions the member has held; and the member's committee membership. The database and website are helpful resources for individuals looking for the legislative background on



Visit NCSL's online bookstore at <http://www.ncsl.org/bookstore/>

State legislators and staff receive publications free of charge!

Regional Coordinators 2008

Karen Mau (HI)

*Alaska
California
Hawaii
Idaho
Nevada
Oregon
Washington*

Marilyn Johnson (ND)

*Iowa
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
North Dakota
South Dakota
Wyoming*

Molly Otto (CO)

*Arizona
Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas
Utah*

Ingrid Hernquist (NJ)

*Delaware
Maryland
New Jersey
North Carolina
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Virginia
West Virginia*

Jennifer Bernier (CT)

(standing in for
Carrie Rose)
*Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New York
Rhode Island
Vermont*

Eddie Weeks (TN)

*Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Louisiana
Mississippi
Puerto Rico
Tennessee*

Marian Rogers (WI)

*Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Michigan
Missouri
Ohio
Wisconsin*

Notable Document Awards

TO: Legislative Research Librarians

FROM: LRL Notable Document Awards Committee

RE: The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) LRL Notable Document Awards

The NCSL's Legislative Research Librarians Section Notable Document Award will be presented at the NCSL Annual Meeting in New Orleans in July. The purpose of the award is to:

- Formally recognize excellence in documents that explore topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff by presenting substantive material in an outstanding format.
- Advertise the extensive range of information available to legislators and staff.
- Increase participation by legislative research librarians in the States Information Network.
- Encourage deposit of documents with NCSL and the Council of State Governments (CSG) by subject-appropriate publishing organizations.

The winning documents will be highlighted at the NCSL annual meeting and will be announced in the LRL Newslines, State Government Research Checklist, State Legislatures, and State Government News.

Award criteria can be found on enclosed form or at
<http://www.ncsl.org/lrl/NDA07.htm>

Legislative research librarians should submit titles for consideration based on the criteria, using the inserted nomination form in this newsletter.

State News

From Susan Southworth, Connecticut:

One nice bit of news from CT - on Dec 15th, 2007, a lovely 5 lb., 11oz girl named Jordan Elizabeth was born to Carrie Rose and husband Ryan. Since Jordan came about 5 weeks early we were all grateful that she was born healthy. Some LRLers may remember meeting Carrie in Santa Fe. Happily for us, Carrie plans to return to work later this spring.



Beautiful baby Jordan Elizabeth

From Susan Zavacky, Pennsylvania:

As of January 1, 2008, the Pennsylvania General Assembly put on their web site (www.legis.state.pa.us) the "Unofficial Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes from West". Go to the bar marked "Find", then look for "Law Information". Purdon's is the last choice on the 5 point list. In July 2007, the Consolidated Statutes were first launched on this site. Purdon's contains both the Consolidated and unconsolidated Pennsylvania law. This marks the first time that Pennsylvania offers free on-line access to all current Pennsylvania law.



*From Jackie Curro, Maryland
LRL Chair-Elect*

We have had major changes in our staff at the Maryland Department of Legislative Services Library in the past year as three important members of our staff retired and new librarians have joined our team.

In technical processing, Lynda Cunningham, Head of Technical Processing, retired in June after 30 years with the library and Senior Cataloger Carol Carman retired in December after 28 years. Lynda and Carol will be missed for a very long time. Cataloger Kimberley Edwards also left the library for new opportunities and a shorter commute after just a year with us. Former reference librarian Cynthia Stiverson has taken over Lynda's responsibilities. Karen Lehmkuhl and Kimberley Waidelich pitched in for our



90 day session, and now we're looking for new catalogers again.

In reference, Senior Reference Librarian Marilyn McManus retired in October after 21 years. She was a key resource in the library, and we all counted on her knowledge, experience and professionalism. She will be missed for a long time, as well.

On the plus side, Annette Kaltenbaugh and Sandra Mueller have joined the reference staff. Annette began working with us in August and only had a month to "learn the ropes" before our special session began in October. Sandy has had an even harsher initiation by fire; starting to work just as our regular session began in January! Annette and Sandy come to our library by way of the Anne Arundel County (MD) Public Library system.

*Best of luck Lynda,
Carol, Kimberly
and Marilyn!*

*Welcome Annette
and Sandy!*

Farewell, Lynda!

NCSL Publications

Reports:

- State Corrections and Sentencing Policy Enactments, 2007

LegisBriefs:

- Complete Streets - November/December 2007 Vol. 15, No. 43
- Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure - November/December 2007 Vol. 15, No. 44
- Keeping Teens in High School - November/December 2007 Vol. 15, No. 45
- State Policies to Support Adolescents - November/December 2007 Vol. 15, No. 46
- Juggling or Balancing: The Dilemma of Dual Office-Holding - November/December 2007 Vol. 15, No. 47
- State Primary Election Systems - November/December 2007 Vol. 15, No. 48
- State Foreclosure Solutions - January 2008 Vol. 16, No. 1
- The Analog Blackout: Making the Transition to Digital Television - January 2008 Vol. 16, no. 2
- E-prescribing - January 2008 Vol. 16, No. 3
- Smoke-Free Laws - January 2008 Vol. 16, No. 4
- Online Learning: State Funding, Costs and Benefits - January 2008 Vol. 16, No. 5
- Driving While Texting: States Address a New Trend - January 2008 Vol. 16, No. 6
- Community Health Workers - February 2008 Vol. 16, No. 7
- The State Surface Transportation Funding Crisis - February 2008 Vol. 16, No. 8
- Mayoral-Appointed School Boards - February 2008 Vol. 16, No. 9
- Dual Employment: Regulating Public Sector Jobs for Legislators - February 2008 Vol. 16, No. 10
- Regulating Telecommunications Tower Siting - February 2008 Vol. 16, No. 11
- Electronic Commerce - February 2008, Vol. 16, No. 12
- Competing for Water: Not Just Out West Anymore - March 2008 Vol. 16, No. 13
- Dual Enrollment: Opportunities and Risks - March 2008 Vol. 16, No. 14
- Ethics Committees: Internal Oversight of Ethics Laws - March 2008 Vol. 16, No. 15
- Primary Seat Belt Laws - March 2008 Vol. 16, No. 16
- Legislative Youth Advisory Councils - March 2008 Vol. 16, No. 17
- Immigration Enforcement in the Workplace - March 2008 Vol. 16, No. 18

NCSL's (and LRL's) 50-State Tracking Service: Rave Reviews!

- Governing Magazine's Website Recommendation of the Month, November 2007
- "... state related associations have lightened the research load in specific areas. Thanks to the Legislative Research Librarians at the National Conference of State Legislatures, a number of surveys on a wide range of topics are available...." - LLRX.com article
- "I checked it out and the resources are truly wonderful....[a] myriad of useful state legislative resources available from the NCSL." - <http://abstracked.blogspot.com>
- "Excellent resource." - <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com>
- Linked from Harvard and Cornell Law Schools, Stateline.org, beSpacific, GovTrack and the *New York Times*

Check it out online at

<http://www.ncsl.org/lrl/50statetracking.htm>

Professional Development Seminar
Sacramento, California
October 15-18, 2008



Annual Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 22-26, 2008



Join us in New Orleans or Sacramento - or both!

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