



Legislative Research Librarians NEWSLINE

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Chair's Column

Jacqueline Curro

Library and Information Services, Maryland



What a great experience it was to be in New Orleans for the 2008 Legislative Summit in July (even with the heat)! The “come back” attitude of the people of Louisiana was evident everywhere, with much of the city looking good as new. It was hard to watch the people Louisiana face Hurricane Gustav at the end of August!

The 2008 Legislative Summit brought together engaging speakers, lively entertainment, and great parties. Our Louisiana librarian hosts arranged two very interesting tours that tied in well with the LRL Staff Section sponsored programs on preserving our important library materials physically and digitally (see more details on the following pages). We'll follow up at the Professional Development Seminar in Sacramento in October with discussions on using new technologies to get information to our users.

I'm honored to follow Cathy Martin (NC) as chair of LRL, and welcome Shelley Day (UT) who was elected secretary at the Legislative Summit. She joins Elizabeth Lincoln

(MN) Chair-elect, Cathy, immediate past chair, and me as your executive committee. Kristin Ford (ID) leaves our executive committee now but has agreed to serve as our representative on a new Professional Development Seminar Forum of the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee's (LSCC) Professional Development Committee. Together with the regional coordinators, and those who staff notable documents and legislative staff achievement awards committees, we have quite a large proportion of our members officially participating in LRL.

Even more of us, though, are actively involved on our listserv – sharing information about new-found resources and jumping in to help when one of us needs to know what every state does on a particular issue. As Susan Gilley (OK) accepted the LRL 2008 Legislative Staff Achievement Award in New Orleans, she spoke for all of us as she talked of the relationships that she has formed and the true friendships that have evolved within LRL. I'm looking forward to serving as chair of our great group this year.

- Jackie



**Legislative Research Librarians
Staff Section**

National Conference of State Legislatures
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Chair: Jacqueline Curro, Maryland

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NCSL Legislative Summit New Orleans, Louisiana

Fire and Flood: Protecting and Recovering Collections at Risk

by Pat Reichert, Wisconsin

Alan Haley has been at the Library of Congress since 1993 and has assisted in disaster response assessments or on-site collections recovery efforts in recent disasters around the world. Susie Johnston (Louisiana) attended one of his seminars and convinced him and NCSL that LRL members need this information.

There is nothing like a live demonstration to emphasize a point. Mr. Haley poured water into pans that contained standing books, photographs, and loose papers. When we gathered around the table an hour later, one pan that had two inches of water in it now had several wet books with very little water on the bottom. The tops of the hardcover books were noticeably damp and had swelled in size.

An emergency is anything that threatens normal operations and conditions at your institution. To plan ahead, you need to know what your risk factors are. Is water your biggest threat? How about bugs? To quote Andrew Roff from LC, any emergency can turn into a water emergency. Your institution may also have a COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan), that you will want to make sure your collections emergency plan fits into.

Losses can be prevented to some degree through planning, involvement by staff, training, available supplies, accurate risk assessment, preventive measures, and outside resources. Develop a relationship with local fire and police departments; they may be your only access to the collection during a disaster and you can direct them to your most valuable/irreplaceable resources for rescue. Are there other libraries in your area with which you can develop a mutual disaster support network? Make sure maintenance and security know to call you if a disaster happens after hours. If it's a big disaster, you may need to call in a company that can freeze books, recover multi-media, etc. You can probably find one in your area through the Internet.

There was too much information to include in this article. Here are a few recommended resources: Field Guide to Emergency Response: A Vital Tool for Cultural Institutions (c2006, available from the ALA Store); dPlan: The Online Disaster-Planning Tool <http://www.dplan.org/> (a disaster planning template from the Northeast Document Conservation Center, <http://www.nedcc.org>); Pigalog (<http://newpig.com>) for industrial uses but has some items that would be useful in a disaster recovery kit; "Salvage at a Glance" developed for the Western Association for Art Conservation (newsletter v.19 no.2) (<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/waac/wn/wn19/wn19-2/wn19-207.html>); Heritage Preservation <http://www.heritagepreservation.org>; LC emergency preparedness information (<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/emergprep/prepare.html>).

SCENES FROM NEW ORLEANS



L-R: Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson (MT), Jackie Curro (MD), Kristin Ford (ID)



Hanging out at the Legislative Staff Luncheon



L-R: Kristin Ford (ID), Cathy Martin (NC), Jackie Curro (MD), Janna Goodwin (NCSL)

Collaborative Project between the Internet Archive and the Ontario Legislative Assembly

by Christine Chen, Oklahoma

Peter Ellinger is the manager of library technology applications at the Legislative Library of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. He has been responsible for a wide range of IT-related projects, including Intranet design and development, bill tracking databases and automated news clipping services. He is also working on a collaborative project with the University of Toronto's Scholar Portal and Knowledge Ontario that extends access to the full text of the Library's electronic government documents archive.

Robert Miller is Director of Books and leads the Internet Archive's global book digitization project. In this capacity, he has three main roles; establishing and maintaining the relationships between the libraries and the funding partners, building and managing the teams that do the digitization and evangelizing within the library community to move more items from non-digital to digital. At present, there are 18 scanning centers in 5 countries.

These two presenters gave us a great idea on preservation for archival materials and make them easy to access from the internet.

Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario through Internet Archive

<http://www.archive.org/details/pt2journalsofleg77ontauoft>

Ontario Government Documents Collection (OurOntario)

<http://govdocs.ourontario.ca/index.html;jsessionid=F715C857CE83F6A41E0D466156B1B384>

Library Catalogue of Legislative Assembly of Ontario

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/go2.jsp?locale=en&Page=/lao-organization/catalogue/library_catalogue&menuItem=lao-organization

Robert also mentioned the Lifetime Management options for the scanning projects. They provided non-destructive scanning techniques which won't damage the books. He even took us to a live tour on one of the scanning center to see how they really work. Besides books, they are working on pricing and testing for loose-leaf files, microform materials currently.

Peter mentioned that prior to beginning the project; he discovered a highly useful tutorial provided by Cornell University Library

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/dpm/dpm-eng/eng_index.html

Any questions on the scanning projects can contact them directly,

Peter Ellinger at ellinger@ontla.ola.org

Robert Miller at Robert@archive.org



Legislative Staff Achievement Award Winner: Susan Gilley, Oklahoma



LRL is pleased to honor Susan Gilley with the 2008 Legislative Research Librarians Staff Achievement Award. Susan has given over 30 years of service to the Oklahoma legislature under a series of structures for its library services. From 1977-1981 she was librarian in the Legislative Council. When the Legislative Council was dissolved in 1981, she was transferred to the Legislative Reference Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. In 1985 she was appointed head of that division, and since 2000 has been Administrator of the Law and Legislative Reference Divisions of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Susan is one of the pioneers of our staff section and her work helped to develop major LRL achievements. Although her projects are too many to list completely, they include helping to plan and produce our first professional development seminar in 1989, the Bibliographies Project, and the first Core Reference List. She chaired our staff section in 1990-1991, has been a regional coordinator, a member of NCSL's Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, on the NCSL Task Force on International Legislative Cooperation, and was a faculty member at annual meeting in 2000.

At home Susan is also an activist in the Oklahoma Library Association, has served on a variety of committees, including Program Planning and is currently co-chair of the Ethics Committee. She previously chaired the

continued on page 4

Susan Gilley continued

Reference Roundtable and the Technical Services Roundtable, planning workshops and conference programs. She is also a member of both the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries and the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries.

Equally importantly, Susan has shared with us her great gifts of humor, friendship and the ability to cut through government nonsense.

Thank you, Susan!



Cathy Martin (NC) presents Susan Gilley (OK) with her just award!



Two of our gracious hostesses: Suzie Johnston (l) and Elizabeth Perkins.

Many Thanks

to our LRL photographers for providing pictures from the Summit:

*Cathy Martin (NC)
Christine Chen (OK)
Kristin Ford (ID)
Pat Reichert (WI)*

Apologies if we missed someone!
More photos can be viewed at
<http://tinyurl.com/5rznxt>

The Historic New Orleans Collection at the Williams Research Center

by Sheeley Day, Utah

So cool inside! Completed in 2007, the four-story addition to the Williams Research Center (WRC) qualifies the building as the newest in the French Quarter and provides specialized storage systems for the Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC). Originally designed as a police station in 1915, the building had multiple uses (mental health center, juvenile court, storage area, warehouse, etc.) before opening in 1996 as the WRC, now a safe haven for much of the history and culture of New Orleans and the Gulf South. The Collection itself was established in 1966 and is operated by the Kemper and Leila Williams Foundation, a nonprofit corporation.

The holdings currently include some 35,000 library items, more than two miles of documents and manuscripts, a microfilm collection, and approximately 400,000 photographs, prints, drawings, and paintings. The Collection adds thousands of items to its holdings each year.

The Collection specialty is 'history of carnival' dating back to 1857. Artwork spans from the typical Victorian 19th century to the modern realm. Wouldn't you know, carnival being a billion dollar industry in New Orleans and a major part of its economy! The Reading Room is a feast for the eyes where staff assists patrons in their research, not only of carnival but all other holdings.

On the fourth floor, behind the scenes storage areas reveal a variety of shelving types to accommodate a myriad of artifacts. Disaster responses and preparations include a roof top natural gas generator, disaster kits on each of the four floors, absorbent pads, clothes lines, flash lights, hard hats, etc. Ballistic film covers all windows, and Kevlar ground covers are close at hand. Books are stored in archival boxes with reflective tape on front and placed in accessible locations. The list goes on and on, but you get the drift. They're prepared for a disaster.

The Vieux Carré Commission, created in the 1930s, enabled a municipality to safeguard the quaint traditional architecture laid out in 1721 in New Orleans' Vieux Carré (The French Quarter), bounded by Iberville Street, Esplanade Avenue, North Rampart Street and the Mississippi River. Properties are organized 'by the square' totaling 108 squares or 85 square blocks. In a joint effort with the Tulane University School of Architecture the HNOC is currently digitizing all properties in the Vieux Carré Survey (VCS). The VCS contains a legal, historical, and architectural description of every property. When available, a 'plan book plan' (a 6' to 8' water color once used by sheriffs when auctioning properties) is photographed and included in the digital record. Truly a worthy project!

I encouraged my artist friend in Baton Rouge to research Mardi Gras masks at the WRC, as that is her next theme to tackle. She is excited to know about this valuable resource so close to her!

Our many thanks to the Williams Research Center staff: Jason Wiese, Assistant Director; John Magill, Curator/Historian; and Howard Margot, Project Director for the VCS Digitization. But mostly to our LRL host folks for organizing this tour that demonstrated the practice of critical preservation efforts in one of the most historical and culturally rich areas in our nation.

NCSL Honors Writers of Notable Documents at 2008 Legislative Summit

Eight research reports were honored by LRL for their excellence in exploring topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff.

CITIZEN'S GUIDE

- North Dakota Blue Book 2007-2008
Alvin A. Jaeger, North Dakota Secretary of State

FISCAL MATTERS

- 2008 General Session Appropriation and Budget Highlights
Utah State Legislature – Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

INNOVATIVE STUDY

- Voices from the Street: A Survey of Homeless Youth by Their Peers
California Research Bureau, California State Library

LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED

- Criminal Records and Employment in Minnesota: Report and Recommendations of the 2007 Collateral Sanctions Committee
Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission
- Indicators of Efficiency and Effectiveness
Kentucky Office of Education Accountability
- Virtual School Operations
Idaho Office of Performance Evaluations

LEGISLATOR'S GUIDE

- Quick Guide to Committee Procedures in the House of Representatives & Quick Guide to Floor Procedure
Louisiana House Legislative Services

PUBLIC POLICY

- Compensating Victims of Bridge Collapses Outside Minnesota
Minnesota Legislature, Senate Counsel

STATE COMPARISON

- Waste Tire Recycling and Reuse in Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania General Assembly – Joint State Government Commission

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Chair

LRL Notable Document Award Committee

Montana Legislative Library

On behalf of committee members:

- **Sabah Eltareb**, California State Library
- **Kristin Ford**, Idaho Legislative Reference Library
- **Ingrid Hernquist**, New Jersey Office of Legislative Services Library
- **Elizabeth Lincoln**, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

Social Event at the Superdome

by Kristin Ford, ID

Southern hospitality was out in full force at the NCSL Annual Summit in New Orleans! For the opening event, we were treated to our own mini-Mardi Gras at the Superdome. The entire Superdome was turned over to us. Buffet tables served southern fare such as jambalaya, gumbo, shrimp, and barbecue, and two separate stages provided wonderful live music, including gospel music, jazz and blues. Our hosts turned out in full Mardi Gras regalia to greet us at the entrance. The costumes were elaborate and amazing - one fellow confided that his head piece alone weighed 35 pounds!. Then the next thing we know, we heard sirens as police on motorcycles heralded the start of a mini-Mardi Gras parade around the interior of the Superdome, with floats, beads, feather boas and toys tossed to the audience.

It was hard to imagine how our hosts could repeat such a wonderful welcome, but the closing event at the National World War II Museum was amazing in a completely different way. Once again, delicious food was available at scattered buffet tables (did someone say catfish, shrimp creole, and bananas foster??). A live band played their hearts out as a trio of singers reminiscent of the Anderson Sisters sang old favorites from the WWII era. There wasn't nearly enough time to see all of the incredibly interesting displays in this museum, which contained displays of planes, weapons, uniforms and correspondence from WWII soldiers, as well as film and audio interviews of the wartime era memories of American on both sides of the pond. A million thanks to our Louisiana hosts for putting out the red carpet for us!

LRL Business Meeting - July 25, 2008

New Orleans, Louisiana

1. **Welcome** - Cathy Martin, LRL Chair, welcomed all attendees, thanked West for sponsoring the lunch, and recognized and thanked the Louisiana Host Folks for their hospitality. She presented Suzie Johnston and her staff with gifts of appreciation (colored scarves and drinkable "non Mardi Gras" gift).

2. **New Secretary** - Kristin Ford moved to nominate Shelley Day as secretary, which was seconded by Jackie Curro. When unanimously approved, Cathy instructed Shelley, "Now get to work!" Shelley hurriedly began taking notes!

3. **Notable Document Awards** - Cathy thanked the judges (Sabah, Kristin, Elizabeth, and Lisa) then turned the program over to Lisa Jackson who recognized the 19 submissions and announced the nine Notable Document Award winners. Utah's Legislative Fiscal Analyst Jon Ball, with Ben Leishman and

Danny Schoenfield, accepted their award in person.

4. **Legislative Staff Achievement Award (LSAA)** - Cathy announced that Susan Gilley, Oklahoma, offers outstanding support to her own library and the NCSL staff section and is "one of the most humble people . . ." She read the accomplishments from Susan's LSAA document. Cathy began to walk over to Susan to present her with the statue, but Susan announced, "Let me come to you. I have words!" Cathy replied, "Oh, okay. Strike that humility part!" Susan reflected on her solo service at the Cartwright Library and expressed

that uniting with others through NCSL's LRL staff section has brought her 'friends forever' who have been an extreme value to her.

5. **Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) Update** - Cathy recapped last year's accomplishments and focus items of LSCC that included involving new staff in LRL, planning programs, beta testing the 50 state bill tracking system, and professional development subcommittee findings.

Jackie explained the chair's responsibilities with LSCC, the process of contracting with hotels, and the new funding formula for the 2009 PDS. She reported that NCSL will monitor contracts and evaluate performance or leave it up to individual



Group photo from the business meeting

staff sections to make PDS arrangements. She also reported that NCSL's new formula will require an additional overhead

when more than 40 attend a PDS.

Cathy reported that LSCC members had expressed appreciation for librarian participation assuring longevity for LRL. Cathy, Jackie, and Kristen all recommended that LRL members get involved and regularly check the NCSL web site for more information pertinent to LRL.

6. **Professional Development Seminar (PDS) 2008 and 2009** - Jackie Curro and Sabah Eltareb led a discussion about the 2008 PDS in Sacramento, CA that will focus on the changing technology for delivering information featuring Donna Scheeder, Library of Congress, as key

Ramblings from an “Old LRLer”

speaker. Attendees were also notified of a discount for the Internet Librarian Conference in Monterey following the PDS.

Without any other nominations for the 2009 PDS and with a unanimous vote, Cathy announced that the 2009 PDS will be held in Minnesota.

7. Other Business – 50 State Compilations - The 50 state compilations was not discussed and it was determined that there was no other business.

8. Announcement of New LRL Chair - Cathy thanked Janna Goodwin for being the NCSL liaison for LRL. She recognized the crucial help Janna offers to various NCSL groups and presented her with a “non drinkable” gift (a little family of black cat statues).

Cathy, by “operation of law” expressed appreciation to Jackie Curro and presented her to members as the new LRL Chair. In turn, Jackie gave credit to Cathy for her numerous efforts and successes, including working on e-issues and web design, and traveling with other LRL members Susan Blixt and Arthur ??? on Germany’s Parliamentary Library Study Tour. Jackie expressed being humbled and presented Cathy Martin with a gift, “The Most Beautiful Libraries in the World.”

Jackie Curro adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

In 1977 when I became the first Legislative Librarian in Oklahoma,, the Oklahoma Legislative Council had existed for 30 years—and had the files and informational materials to prove it! Discovering the support of the NCSL Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section provided me with colleagues that prevented that backlog and my other duties from overwhelming me. Others already had systems of organizational structure for their collections, processes for managing clippings, sources for reliable publications, methods for working with legislators, legislative staff, council directors, etc. I did not have to re-invent the wheel. Most of all, I was not alone.

I discovered that most other legislative librarians also worked alone or with only one or two others. But the LRL gave us each other. These people truly understood the unique challenges of my job. Annual and PDS meetings, with telephone calls (and now email) in between, provided a lifeline. The challenges and methods of communication have changed in the last 30 years, but the need for occasional help from colleagues never will. This is why the LRL staff section remains very important to me.

These colleagues (YOU) have enriched my life, professionally and personally. Over the years, not only have my colleagues assisted me with job-related information, many of them have become my friends. I believe that personal (face-to-face) contact with your colleagues is critical. That’s one reason I believe that attendance at NCSL functions, especially PDS gatherings where you have time and opportunity to get better acquainted, is critical to new legislative librarians.

This explains a little about the role the LRL has played in my career and my life and why I feel recognition from the LRL is the highest compliment anyone could receive. My receipt of the LRL Legislative Staff Achievement Award is not something I earned; any success I’ve had in my professional career is the result of help from my fellow LRL librarians. So, although I may not deserve it, I’m grateful to all of you. Thank you for the honor of this award, but, even more, thank you for being a part of LRL.

- Susan Gilley

P.S. My real fear in accepting this award is that I feel I should either be dying or retiring but I don’t plan on doing either. When you reach the “pinnacle,” where can things go—except downhill?!//

*Respectfully submitted by Shelley Day, LRL
Secretary, 5 August 2008*

State News

From Marian Rogers, Wisconsin: In September 2007, Rose Arnold retired after 30 years of service to the LRB. Rose’s principal responsibility was classification and management of the news clippings collection. In July, Alexis Ernst-Treutel transferred from the LRB’s reference section to the library services section. She assumed responsibility for management of news clippings and for oversight and implementation of our in-house, online clippings resource: LRBClip. Please join us in wishing Rose a pleasant retirement and in welcoming Alexis as our new librarian.

*Join us at LRL's
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October 15-18, 2008
Sacramento, California*



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