Chair’s Column:  
I Learned Something Today

By Jennifer Bernier, LRL Chair 2015-2016  
Co-Head Librarian  
Connecticut Legislative Library

In grade school I had a teacher who said we couldn’t go home until we learned something. At the end of each day, we would each go over a new thing we learned. It was very personal and became a game of sorts as each student came up with something different. (Of course, we eventually learned to turn the exercise around and say, “I’ve learned something today. Can I go home now?” As you can imagine, that approach was unsuccessful.)

This issue is filled with learning opportunities: articles about NCSL’s Annual Summit in Seattle, Wash. and information on the LRL Professional Development PDS in Austin, Texas. Each individual session is written up in the Newsline so those unable to attend can still experience the excitement of learning.

But, as most of you know, learning at conferences isn’t just from the programming—it’s also from the people you meet along the way, such as the legislator who sat next to you from a state you’ve always wanted to visit, the staff person who shares a personal story about what brought them to legislative service, or library colleagues from around the country with different resources and ways of doing things. These experiences energize us and help us improve how we do things in our own libraries.

With that in mind, I hope each of you finds something of interest in the Newsline and reaches out to contact an article author, congratulate a colleague, or strike up or rekindle a friendship.

I also encourage you to have LRL assist you with learning and sharing opportunities, even when you aren’t able to go away to a conference. LRL can help you create a webinar about skills you’ve acquired (it’s easy, I promise!). You can also join a staff section committee or simply find a colleague in another state with a similar issue to work through.

So, let’s join in the learning experience and, at the end of each day, say with confidence:

I learned something today.

Jennifer

Continued on page 2.
Thank you, Congratulations, and Welcome!

LRL 2015-2016 Regional Directors:

- Christine McCluskey (Conn.), Atlantic Northern
- Annette Halderman (Md.), Atlantic Central
- Elisa Naquin (La.), Gulf Coast
- Anne Rottman (Mo.), Great Lakes
- Rosemarie London (Wyo.), Central Northern
- Molly Otto (Colo.), Central Southern
- Danielle Mayabb (Nev.), West Coast

Thank you all for your service as Regional Directors and welcome to Rosemarie who is taking over for Jonetta Douglas (Iowa). Jonetta—thank you for your service as a Regional Director for the Central Northern region. We look forward to hearing from you in the “State News” column and on the listserv. Stay in touch!!

I offer both special and personal thanks to Sonia Gavin (Mont.) for her service as LRL Chair this past year. It was a pleasure to work with her and I look forward to receiving her counsel as she assumes the role of immediate past chair. Please also congratulate Sonia on her recent appointment to the NCSL Executive Committee. LRL is proud to have such capable representation on the committee.

Congratulations are also in order for Sabah Eltareb (Cal.) and Teresa Wilt (Nev.) for receiving Legislative Staff Achievement Awards for the LRL Staff Section. Read more about it here: [http://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislative-staff/research-librarians/lrl-legislative-staff-achievement-award-recipients.aspx](http://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislative-staff/research-librarians/lrl-legislative-staff-achievement-award-recipients.aspx).

And let’s welcome Julia Covington (NC) to the LRL Staff Section officers. At the NCSL Annual Summit’s business meeting, Julia became the LRL Staff Section Secretary. Great to have you on board!

LRL Member News

Dear LRL Friends,

As I retire from the State of Utah after 31 years of public service, 24 of those in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, no words can adequately express my gratitude for all that you’ve shared with me as a member of the NCSL Legislative Research Librarian staff section. Among that long list includes abundant laughter, endless professional and personal experiences, progressive ideas, knowledge, wisdom, support, and many dear friendships.

After my “Auld Lang Syne” reaches you and the clock strikes midnight on the 31st of December, some of my new activities include: 1) teaching a couple of OSHER classes during the 2016 session and interim on how to keep an eye on lawmakers using the legislative website; 2) chairing the West Valley City Arts Council; 3) stretching my skills as a member of the Utah Calligraphic Artists Guild; and 4) enjoying the Italian Riviera in April. Next summer I may dabble in part-time or seasonal work and delight in a few road trips. One thing for sure, lifelong learning is my passion, and my bucket list just keeps on growing!

You are welcome in my home when you venture to Utah, and I’m thrilled to host my first two LRL friends (Sonia and Jennifer) during the first week in January!

Thank you all for welcoming me into the fold. There is no NCSL staff section like LRL. You are ALL such remarkable and lovely individuals!

Cheers to new beginnings each and every day!

Shelley

Shelley Day, Utah
LRL Legislative Summit Sessions

Below are summaries of LRL sessions at the 2015 Legislative Summit in Seattle. In addition to the sessions, LRL members held our annual business meeting and enjoyed not one, but two Dutch Treat dinners!

Communication Essentials and Ethical Practice

*Communication Essentials and Ethical Practice*

*Catherine Wusterhausen, Texas Legislative Reference Library*

Brian N. Baird, president of Antioch University Seattle and a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, explored the important connections between communication skills and promoting ethical behavior.

Both communication skills and ethical behavior are often learned unconsciously, by observing others, but this approach may not serve well in difficult situations.

To communicate effectively, a speaker must be ready, not just with facts or arguments, but mentally ready to remain focused on the communication, able to recognize elements that might trigger a negative reaction and use these stimuli to instead trigger a more productive response.

An effective communicator must also be ready to receive information, able to listen and remain in the moment, while avoiding the tendency to project his or her own assumptions onto others. Communication is more than words—it includes body language, gestures, and attitudes. People want to feel that they have really been heard and understood.

Finally, an effective communicator must know how to respond. You must have a purpose for your response; avoid habitual responses. Sometimes, saying nothing is best.

Good communication can promote ethical behavior. Ethical problems generally arise in dialog with other people; there may be a tendency to believe that ethical behavior is less important than "flexibility" or that immediate goals should take precedence over longer-term concerns.

To encourage ethical behavior, it is necessary to explicitly communicate expectations. Developing clear policies, such as NCSL's Model Code of Conduct for Legislative Staff, can guide staff decision making. Policies, however necessary, are not sufficient; those at the top of the organization need to clearly communicate the expectation that policies will be followed and must ensure that the culture of the group promotes ethical behavior. Staff must know that questions are truly encouraged, and a willingness to honestly discuss ethical issues will be rewarded.

The session concluded with an opportunity for the group to explore how principles of effective communication can be used to address ethical challenges.

Effective Research Strategies: Best Practices and Innovative Ways to Present Information

*Effective Research Strategies: Best Practices and Innovative Ways to Present Information*

*Jennifer Bernier, Connecticut Legislative Library*

Cheryl Nyberg, author of the Subject Compilations of State Laws series, presented information on ways to search for 50 state surveys that have already been compiled. She provided a few tips for attendees on finding these elusive compilations including using the internet archive and including "ann.", "rev." and other terms to ensure the compilation has citations. [Check her handout for additional tips.](#)

Brian Bean and Mark Andrews, both from Utah, presented the second half of the session on innovative ways to present information. They each described how they used free software or software their state already possessed to make a visual-with-audio presentation. [See a list of resources here.](#)

Rock Star Communication: Take It to the Next Level

*Rock Star Communication: Take It to the Next Level*

*Carole Tanaka, Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau Library*

Sari de la Motte, founder and CEO of FORTE, a communications consulting firm in Portland, Ore., presented a seminar on using nonverbal communication as a key to becoming a rock star communicator. According to de la Motte, you must first work on nonverbal intelligence. There are three ingredients of nonverbal intelligence which she describes as the ability to be aware of your nonverbal communication as well as that of others, the ability to be adaptable so you know what nonverbal communications you’re seeing and how to adapt to it, all while remaining authentic. Nonverbal communication is how you use your voice, body, eyes and breathing to get your message across.

There are two sets of nonverbals: the authoritative nonverbal and the approachable nonverbal, as well as the authoritative voice pattern and approachable voice pattern.
Body language

Authoritative body language (communicates expertise, use when SENDING message):

- Weight evenly distributed when standing or sitting
- Toes point forward
- Head is still and straight
- Palms face down when gesturing

Approachable body language (communicates openness, use when SEEKING information):

- Weight unevenly distributed when standing or sitting
- Toes don’t point forward
- Head bobs or tilts to the side
- Palms face up when gesturing

Voice pattern

Authoritative voice pattern (use when SENDING information)

- Voice is flat and curls down at the end of statements
- Example: when you say “Bond. James Bond.”

Approachable voice pattern (use when SEEKING information)

- Voice goes up and down and curls up at the ends of statements
- Example: when Mr. Rodgers says “Won’t you be my neighbor?”

To be a rock star communicator, you need to be able to communicate both ways. It’s recognizing others’ behaviors and adapting to mirror their behavior. If you see approachable, be approachable; if you see authoritative, be authoritative. But remember you must also be authentic; be yourself or others will recognize this as being fake.

Rock Star Communication: Take it to the Next Level

Eddie Weeks, Tennessee Legislative Library

Sari de la Motte of FORTE spoke about speaking. Her excellent presentation covered both verbal nonverbal communication, as well as how to control a room and how to control your mind.

Communication starts long before you speak; you must control yourself and your message to effectively and authoritatively communicate your message.

Being aware of the other person’s nonverbal communications, and being conscious of your own, helps ensure that the verbal communication is successful.

Your presence in a communication is essential; you must concentrate on the here and now, while controlling your mind, your body, the space around you, and the other person or persons involved.

Be authoritative when sending information, but be approachable when seeking information. It’s amazing how often we get this backwards.

Breathing, voice, and body are all involved in communication. Learn to control these things to facilitate communication.

Behavior depends on behavior. In general, respond to how the other person acts; let them lead, but control the communication.

Learn these ideas, and you can be a rock star at communication.

Tour of the Seattle Municipal Archives and Seattle Public Library

Teresa Wilt, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau Library

On the last day of the Summit, the LRL group was treated to a tour of the Seattle Municipal Archives and the main branch of the Seattle Public Library. This tour was of interest not only to librarians, but also history, art, and architecture buffs. Our first stop was the Seattle Municipal Archives, housed in the Office of the
City Clerk in Seattle’s City Hall. City Hall is an amazing building in its own right, filled with public art. Our guide, City Archivist Scott Cline, explained that one percent of capital improvement project funds are set aside and every city office houses public art paid for from that fund.

As Scott led us around the Archives he explained that the Municipal Archive program has been operating for over 30 years, and has occupied its current location since 2004. Like many of our libraries, legislative history research accounts for a large portion of its user base.

The Archives collects city records “documenting the history, development, and activities of the agencies and elected officials of Seattle and the interaction between citizens and their local government.” They house the standard print items along with photographs, maps, and also film, video, and audio recordings. They are also digitizing portions of their collection. For example, of their nearly 1.5 million negatives, about 100,000 are digitized. We commiserated with Scott on the challenge of capturing and preserving born-digital records.

For more information, visit the Seattle City Archives.

The Archives’ holdings are part of Archives West.

Our second tour guide, Jodee Fenton, Head of Special Collections, met us at the Archives for a short, walk to the Seattle Public Library’s remarkable Central Library.

Last year was the 10th anniversary of the new building. If you want to take a “deep dive” into the design, The New York Times ran a great article in 2004, “The Library that Puts on Fishnets and Hits the Disco.” The author, Herbert Muschamp, gushed, “In more than 30 years of writing about architecture, this is the most exciting new building it has been my honor to review.” I will not attempt to compete with Muschamp’s enthusiastic and thorough examination.

We were handed off to Ann Ferguson, curator of the Seattle Collection. She took us through this Seattle- and King County-focused section, much of which was housed in a reference library in the old City Hall until 1991.

This non-circulating collection contains many special items, including maps, photographs, high school yearbooks, oral histories, restaurant menus, and the Albert Balch Autograph Collection.

We then spent some time further exploring the building with Marion Scichilone, Assistant Managing Librarian for the Downtown Region. We wandered through the non-fiction stacks (which are found in the four-level Book Spiral), over the computer labs and meeting rooms, through the Mixing Chamber and Living Room, and even poking into the Auditorium and the Children’s Center. This 2012 entry in Andrew Kim’s blog “Minimally Minimal” has great pictures that will give you some sense of what our journey was like. (While not as verbose as Mr. Muschamp, Mr. Kim was equally entranced.) Marion spoke about the building, the collection, and projects like the Living Voters Guide, for which the Library provides on-demand fact checking, and outreach visits at the municipal courts.

There are wonderful works of art in the Library. We were fascinated by the six LCD screen video art installation, “Making Visible the Invisible” in the Mixing Chamber. (For more, see this short video and Fast Facts.) However, the video faces inside the wall along the escalator are just a tad creepy.

If you would like to learn more, the Library’s website provides interesting Building Facts, including information about the unusual materials used in the interior. And if you are ever in Seattle, add this intriguing building to your “Must See” list.
Legislative Staff Achievement Awards

LRL was pleased to present the Legislative Staff Achievement Award to two of our members during the Legislative Summit in Seattle. The 2015 honorees are Sabah Eltareb of California and Teresa Wilt of Nevada. Congratulations to both recipients and thank you for all you have done for your legislatures and for LRL!

Sabah Eltareb
Assistant Director
California Research Bureau
California State Library

LRL is pleased to present the 2015 Legislative Staff Achievement Award to Sabah Eltareb for her service to the California Legislature, LRL staff section and NCSSL. Sabah, an Assistant Director at the California Research Bureau, has provided dedicated service to the Governor, both houses of the state legislature, and other state constitutional officers and their staff.

Sabah has been a key member of LRL. She served on the LRL Notable Documents Awards committee from 2004 through 2011 including as chair in her final year. She became a staff section officer in 2011 and her service as chair of the LRL (2013/14) saw the first LRL Professional Development Seminar in four years. In 2014, she was appointed to the LSCC where she continues to serve and advocate for the LRL.

Sabah has contributed to the LRL by setting examples which include guiding members to be more active and welcoming all members to join activities. Her energy, helpful spirit and ability to bring together a team of people to accomplish staff section goals demonstrate her leadership skills. The LRL is pleased to present this award to Sabah and honored to have her as a member of our staff section.

Teresa Wilt
Legislative Librarian
Legislative Library
Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau

LRL is pleased to present the 2015 Legislative Staff Achievement Award to Teresa Wilt for her service to the Nevada Legislature and the LRL staff section. Teresa is a hardworking and dedicated librarian for the Nevada Counsel Bureau Research Library. She has served the Nevada legislature since 2000 and was appointed as the Legislative Librarian in 2013.

Teresa conducts training for new legislators and staff, and has revamped the library’s approach to training to make it more useful. She handles the most complicated, time intensive, and time sensitive requests with ease. She knows the importance of excellent customer service and sets an example for her staff to follow. She has united her staff and shown them how each of them is a valued member of the team.

Teresa is a driving force in keeping the library relevant, even through a constantly changing legislative environment. Teresa has done an outstanding job and has raised the bar for excellence.

Teresa is a dedicated member of LRL, having served as a speaker and regular contributor to the newsletter and listserv. LRL is pleased to have the opportunity to present Teresa the Legislative Staff Achievement Award for her dedication to the Nevada Legislature and her work with LRL.

2014-2015 LRL Chair Sonia Gavin (in red) presents the Legislative Staff Achievement Award plaques to Sabah Eltareb (left photo) and to Teresa Wilt (right photo) during the LRL Business Meeting in Seattle.

Congratulations, Sabah and Teresa!
Notable Documents Awards

The 2015 Notable Documents Awards were presented at the LRL Business Meeting at the NCSL Legislative Summit in Seattle. This year’s competition saw a record 61 documents submitted and 13 were selected for the awards.

Thanks to the members who served on the Notable Documents Awards Committee: Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota, Chair; Shelley Day, Utah; Ingrid Hernquist, New Jersey; Elisa Naquin, Louisiana; and Alyssa Novak Jones, Minnesota.

Below are the 2015 honorees and categories:

Constitution
Piecemeal Amendment to the Constitution of New Mexico 1911-2014 – New Mexico Legislative Council Service

History of Legislation
Texas Penal Code Revision Research Guide – Texas Legislative Reference Library

Innovative Presentation
Economic Impact of Public Natural Resource Lands – State of Washington, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

Interactive Graphics – Texas Legislative Budget Board

A Modern Correctional Facility for Utah and Answers (Vol. 1, Vol. 2, Vol. 3a, Vol. 3b, and Vol. 3c) – Utah Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Notable Online Resource
Colorado LegiSource [Blog] – Colorado Office of Legislative Legal Services

Performance Evaluation
The State’s Use of Legal Services – Office of Performance Evaluations, Idaho Legislature

Public Policy—Economy
Uber’s On-Demand Car Service – Connecticut Office of Legislative Research

Level the Playing Field: Put California’s Underground Economy Out of Business – The Little Hoover Commission, California

Public Policy—Fiscal
Understanding California’s Sales Tax – The California Legislative Analyst’s Office

Public Policy—Environmental
Minnesota and Climate Change: Our Tomorrow Starts Today – Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Plastic Microbeads in Minnesota – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Session Summary
Highlights 2014 – New Mexico Legislative Council Service
LRL Newsline • Fall 2015

LSCC Fall Meeting Report

LRL officers attended the Fall meeting of the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee in Nashville, in October. Below are their reports.

Programs, Professional Development and Outreach Subcommittee

Jennifer Bernier, Connecticut Legislative Library

The subcommittee discussed the Statehouse Ambassador Program, which is being discontinued, and how to provide new staff with information on NCSL as well as how NCSL could identify the needs of legislative staff. We also discussed the 2016 Summit (Chicago) programing. Karl Aro, the LSCC Staff Chair, announced that he has secured author Hampton Sides as the speaker for the Salute to Staff Luncheon at the Chicago Summit.

If you have specific ideas for 2016 Summit programming, please contact one of the LRL Officers. Thank you!!

Legislative Institution Subcommittee

Catherine Wusterhausen, Texas Legislative Reference Library

The Legislative Institution Subcommittee discussed plans to continue developing content highlighting success stories. Production is continuing on a video program which will hopefully be ready for presentation at the NCSL Capitol Forum in December.

The subcommittee members discussed possible examples of improvements in the legislative process that could be highlighted in future videos. Suggestions included improvements in the fiscal note process in Alaska, Texas' development of an electronic system for filing legislation, changes to child protective services in Vermont and developing a system for electronic bill books in Nevada and Washington.

The group seemed particularly interested in process improvements that included efforts by both staff and legislators to increase transparency and help the legislative process move more efficiently. The subcommittee discussed presenting success stories in a variety of formats, including short videos, longer video pieces and magazine articles.

The subcommittee also discussed programming ideas for Legislative Summit focused on helping staffers understand the unique nature of the legislative environment. One possibility would be a panel discussion that would bring together new and seasoned legislative staffers for a conversation focused on what legislative staffers need to know. A second option would be focused on building strong relationships between legislators and staff.

Programs, Professional Development and Outreach Subcommittee

Sabah Eltareh, California Research Bureau

Attending the last of four scheduled on-ground meetings for the LSCC Programs, Professional Development and Outreach Subcommittee was simultaneously happy and sad, reflective and forward-looking.

Rather than coming together to discuss progress and next steps on various projects we were involved in, we were reviewing pieces of the annual report we were submitting to the full Executive and LSCC Committee detailing updates on those projects: Programs for Staff in Term Limited States, the Statehouse Ambassador Program and Summit Planning.

It was a great sense of accomplishment to think about all the work that had been accomplished over the past year on these projects as well as the findings and recommendations being put forth for consideration for work by future members.

With my work on the LSCC having been extended an additional year through the discretionary appointment, I am incredibly honored to have served three years. I have learned so much, worked with an incredible group of colleagues throughout the country and had the opportunity to get involved with issues much more deeply. I want to encourage all LRL members to look for opportunities to get more involved with LSCC—it’s an incredible way to enhance your professional skills as you are working on issues strengthening and shaping the direction of NCSL.

Staff Section Officers Work Group

Catherine Wusterhausen, Texas Legislative Reference Library

The Staff Section Officers Work Group provided a great opportunity for the officers of the various staff sections to discuss recent activities and future plans. The group began with a discussion of strategies to insure that incoming staff section officers are able to attend the fall LSCC meeting.

Next, there was a discussion of the importance of using new technology to present information. Social media, webinars and short video and audio presentations can all be effective ways to reach a wider audience. Finally, participants provided updates on staff section activities. It was a pleasure to hear about the wide range of topics covered by the groups’ professional development seminars.

Continued on page 9.
Full LSCC Meeting

Catherine Wusterhausen, Texas Legislative Reference Library

The meeting opened with a very positive report by NCSL Executive Director Bill Pound. The NCSL General Fund ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position. The Seattle Legislative Summit was highly successful, with strong attendance and generally favorable comments from attendees. The staff section professional development seminars have also had a good response.

Karl Aro, NCSL Staff Chair, introduced a number of proposed changes to the LSCC bylaws. The changes are intended to facilitate more electronic content delivery. The proposed changes will be considered at the January LSCC meeting.

The Information Technology Issues Subcommittee report also highlighted electronic content delivery; subcommittee projects include improving marketing of resources available through NCSL and developing new electronic content.

The Legislative Institutions Subcommittee will be focusing on highlighting legislative success stories, particularly those in which legislative staffers are able to contribute to efforts that increase efficiency or transparency.

The Programs, Professional Development and Outreach Subcommittee will be working on developing a replacement for the Statehouse Ambassador program, and will also be examining the needs of legislative staff in states with high turnover. Planning is in progress for the 2016 Legislative Summit. Historian and author Hampton Sides will be speaking at the legislative staff lunch, and the subcommittee is working on other programs, including a welcome for new attendees and a possibly a service project.

The reports of the LSCC workgroups were similarly positive. The Staff Section Officers Work Group reported high attendance at fall PDS events; the Standing Committees Work Group has had a very good response for the December Capitol Forum. The Strategic Planning Work Group will be looking at staff turnover and developing programming related to attracting and retaining legislative staffers.

Did You Know?

The LSCC is made up of the NCSL staff officers, legislative staff members on the NCSL Executive Committee, the staff officers of the NCSL Standing Committees, two officers of each of the ten staff sections, and four discretionary appointments of the NCSL Staff Chair. The LSCC oversees NCSL’s legislative staff services, coordinates the work of the ten staff sections of NCSL, and promotes professional development of legislative staff.

NCSL Publications

May 2015

- Separation of Powers and Legislative Immunity | Vol. 23, No. 20
- The Choice Act and Veterans’ Education | Vol. 23, No. 19
- Reducing Methane Emissions | Vol. 23, No. 18
- Religious Freedom Restoration Acts | Vol. 23, No. 17

June 2015

- Tackling Student Loan Debt | Vol. 23, No. 21
- Standards and Assessments for College and Career | Vol. 23, No. 22
- Regulating Compounding Pharmacies | Vol. 23, No. 23
- Keeping Recreational Water Facilities Safe | Vol. 23, No. 24

July 2015

- Regulating Payroll Cards | Vol. 23, No. 25
- Dental Benefits for Adults with Medicaid | Vol. 23, No. 26
- Addressing Pregnancy Among Rural Teens | Vol. 23, No. 27
- State Tax Reliance | Vol. 23, No. 28

August 2015

- Authorizing Higher Education Across State Lines | Vol. 23, No. 29
- Grappling with Sexual Assaults on Campus | Vol. 23, No. 30
- Addressing Mental Health in the Justice System | Vol. 23, No. 31
- Provisional Ballots | Vol. 23, No. 32

September 2015

- The Legality of Fantasy Sports | Vol. 23, No. 33
- Sexual Orientation in Employment Discrimination Laws | Vol. 23, No. 34
- State Definitions of College and Career Readiness | Vol. 23, No. 36

October 2015

- Regulating Marijuana: A Year and a Half In | Vol. 23, No. 37
- Recent Reductions in Public Pension COLAs | Vol. 23, No. 38
- Raising the Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction | Vol. 23, No. 39
- The Current State of Equal Pay Laws | Vol. 23, No. 40
2015 Professional Development Seminar

The 2015 LRL fall seminar was a joint meeting with RACSS and LSSS or, in English, legislative research and bill drafting staff. The meeting was held at the AT&T Conference Center on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin, as well as at the Texas State Capitol.

The agenda featured several joint plenary programs and breakout sessions planned by each of the staff sections. Jennifer Bernier, Mary Camp and Catherine Wusterhausen were the planners for LRL sessions and did an outstanding job of developing a rich and robust agenda for librarians.

Below are summaries of LRL sessions, as well as plenary and research programs. Handouts and PowerPoints for some programs are available on the joint PDS web page.

Texas History & Texas Artifacts: Tour of Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Adrienne Sonder, Texas Legislative Reference Library

Members of the LRL staff section were treated to a three-part presentation at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). Kicking off the session (for this librarian), was a presentation about the Senate recordings digitization project. TSLAC has in its collection over 25,000 audio tapes of Texas Senate floor debates, committee hearings, press conferences, and other legislative activities spanning the period of 1972-2006. The presenters played audio clips of Senator A.R. ‘Babe’ Schwartz and Senator Barbara Jordan to demonstrate the rich historical information contained in the tapes, which were created by and received from the Texas Senate Staff Services.

Digitization of the tapes began out of grant money in 2012 with a goal of making the recordings more widely available while still preserving the original cassette tapes. Converting the tapes to a digital format was outsourced to George Blood Audio in Philadelphia. These efforts produced over 18 terabytes of audio files, which is now available on TSLAC’s website. The recordings can be searched by legislative session or keyword, and the presenters briefly discussed additional search features they are considering, such as browsing by subject.

After hearing about the Senate tapes digitization project, we heard from Angela Kent, the Reference/Government Documents Librarian at TSLAC. TSLAC is one of two regional depositories of federal documents in Texas (the other regional depository is Texas Tech University). On display were documents from the collection, and one particularly memorable item was a U.S. boundary survey from the turn of the century that had beautiful color prints of birds and animals.

In addition to being a federal depository, TSLAC is also a state publications depository. In the collection you can expect to find anything developed for public consumption by the Texas state government, including items from university presses. Angela noted that most of the documents in the depository programs are print-based, although they are looking at how they can incorporate electronic materials into their collections. She mentioned the papers of former Governor Rick Perry as one of their first attempts to do this. Most of the depository collection is in closed stacks, though the genealogy materials are open. Documents published after 1976 can be found in the library's catalog, and to find anything earlier you may have to call.

During the third part of the tour we heard about the memorials and petitions collection. This is a fascinating collection of memorials and petitions to the Texas legislature that documents the early history of citizen interaction with elected officials. In addition, it is a rich source of legislative intent for early Texas legislation. The presenters showed us a petition from William Ashworth, who was responsible for getting the Ashworth Act passed. We also saw a petition requesting a divorce, written by the Spanish-speaking translator for Juan Seguin, the only Mexican Texan in the Senate of the Republic of Texas. The memorials and petitions collection has been digitized by and is available on Ancestry.com.
E-Tools...Technology a Day, Keeps IT Away!

Julia Covington, North Carolina Legislative Library

Librarian and Library consultant, Barbara Fullerton, gave us an overview of some of her favorite websites and apps designed to make research librarians’ work easier. It was a fast-paced session in which Barbara described or demonstrated free and low cost technology tools that librarians can use to create word clouds and timelines, monitor changes in webpages, access market research information, convert sound and video files, capture screen shots, entire websites or graphics, and much more! The E-Tools presentation handout is available on the PDS agenda web page.

Texas Water

Melanie Harshman, Texas Legislative Reference Library

The Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL recently welcomed Dr. Robert Mace of the Texas Water Development Board for a presentation at a professional development seminar in Austin. Dr. Mace told a fascinating and timely story of Texas water, including data, planning and financing, to ensure water supplies for the future. He also explored the incredible diversity of climates, precipitation levels, major and minor aquifers, and river basins in Texas.

James Michener said that “Water, not oil, is the lifeblood of Texas.” Dr. Mace illustrated this by building a Texas "water budget" piece by piece, from the atmosphere to surface water to groundwater.

Interesting facts about Texas water:

- 86 percent of all rainfall in Texas is evaporated or evapotranspirated (“plant sweat”) back into the atmosphere.
- Only 1.3 percent of all the rainfall and surface water runoff actually make it down into the aquifer system.
- 40 percent of all water used in Texas, whether surface water or groundwater, comes from the Ogallala Aquifer in the Panhandle.

Texas water law is a combination of our Spanish, Mexican, and Texan legal history. Legal doctrines of overland flow as private property, prior appropriation, and the rule of capture govern water ownership and supplies in the state.

Recent water innovations in Texas include:

- Direct potable reuse: In a first for the United States (and only the second place in world), Texas has started directly reusing treated wastewater for drinking water. The Colorado River Municipal Water District in Big Spring and the city of Wichita Falls are early adopters.
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR): This process injects water back into an aquifer for later use. ASR avoids the ravages of evaporation, and has been utilized in San Antonio with transfers from the Edwards Aquifer to the Carrizo Aquifer.
- Desalination: Texas already has over 200 groundwater or surface water desalination plants inland, the largest being in El Paso. The 2012 State Water Plan includes proposals for five seawater coastal desalination plants.
- Water conservation: The average person uses 100 gallons of water per person per day, but conservation can dramatically reduce this amount. Dr. Mace suggested that by carefully studying our own water budgets, we can help save water for future Texans.

Two Guys on Your Head

Catherine Wusterhausen, Texas Legislative Reference Library

In this entertaining and informative discussion, Dr. Art Markman and Dr. Robert Duke, both professors at the University of Texas at Austin, explored how brain science can shed light on why people do what they do, and how this information can be used to improve communication, create change, and develop an environment in which people can be successful and innovative.
The speakers started off by emphasizing the extent to which we tend to overestimate the power of reason while overlooking other aspects of human psychology. We tend to assume that if people simply have the same information as we do, they will make the same decision, but it is not that simple.

Humans have natural tendencies not only to evaluate information in a way that is in keeping with our preferred outcome, but also to give more emphasis to those facts that support the ideas we already believe. This tendency to try to create coherence by discounting non-conforming facts and ideas is exacerbated by the multiplicity of modern information sources. It is now easier than ever to avoid exposure to differing views, which hinders real communication. Real, effective communication is based on negotiation. In a discussion, people must constantly find ways to agree about what terms mean, and this in turn can increase understanding about why disagreements arise. In many cases, the most challenging disagreements are related to protected values, values that are deeply held and which tend to engage the emotions.

Even discussing compromising these values can provoke feelings of anger or guilt which can shut down a discussion. To effectively communicate, it is necessary to understand these values and at times to address them indirectly, in a way that does not activate the "fight or flight" response that is a basic part of human nature. Face-to-face communication is particularly effective in these highly charged discussions, because it involves a variety of subtle feedback mechanism that help promote greater understanding.

There are other, seldom acknowledged, ways that our brain can influence our perceptions and understanding. Sleep can have a powerful impact on memories and perceptions. During sleep, memories are consolidated, and lack of sleep can hinder memory formation. Moreover, lack of sleep can also influence what gets remembered; studies have shown that tired people are much more likely to remember negative events. Similarly, hunger can have a powerful impact on human reasoning and decision-making.

Our perceptions are also profoundly influenced by our tendency to try to create stories to make sense of events, based on our own particular understanding of a situation. We then act based on these narratives, which may overlook crucial factors that contributed to a particular outcome, while wildly overemphasizing others. In American society, we tend to overemphasize the role of quick, decisive, individual action, and overlook other contributing factors.

The speakers suggested that to effectively communicate and to create change it is essential to remember that humans are physical beings, and our actions and decisions are influenced in subtle ways by our physical and emotional needs, as well as by culturally constructed narratives about how the world works.

**A Visit to the Texas Legislative Reference Library**

*Jesse Saunders, Texas Legislative Reference Library*

The tour of the Legislative Reference Library of Texas' space and services began in the Capitol Reading Room. Located between the House and Senate chambers, the Capitol Reading Room was originally designed to be a library space, and legislative reference and information has been offered since 1909. The space is furnished to appear roughly as it would have in 1915, including period correct windows, furniture and other treatments. The library's capitol collection includes many of the library's print holdings, including Texas House & Senate Journals, Session Laws, a print collection, state reports, and periodicals.

After a brief tour of the Texas LRL's capitol space, we took a short walk over to the John H. Reagan (JHR) Building, where many of the library's administrative functions are conducted. The JHR tour began with a description of the "Bill Spa," where folded documents are hydrated so they can be pressed flat for scanning and preservation. From there, the tour moved to the space where the library produces a daily clipping service including articles from 27 Texas and national newspapers, through the library's scanning operation, and finally to the vast bill file room, which holds the library's collection of official bill files.
Following the tour, we convened in the library's conference room for an overview of the library's online services. The online systems include the Legislative Archives System (LAS), which contains scanned bill files back to 1879, and Texas Legislators: Past & Present, a repository for information on members of the Texas Legislature dating back to the establishment of the state government in 1846. Session-specific duties also include maintaining the Index to Sections Affected database, which tracks the proposed statute changes of every section of every version of every bill and joint resolution before the Texas Legislature, and assisting with the assigning of companion bills, noting which bills are identical/very similar/similar to others before the legislature. The online services portion of the tour concluded with a discussion of the LRL's current awareness and social media activities. The library's weekly Current Awareness list includes 25 articles related to topics of interest to the legislative community, and social media outreach is conducted through Twitter (with 2,500 followers), Pinterest, and a library blog, which is featured prominently on the library's website.

After wrapping up the presentation, members of the library staff took questions on various topics related to the library's collections and online services.

**Trends in Librarianship and Library Services**

*Brandon Vasquez, Texas Legislative Reference Library*

One of the strengths of a conference is the opportunity to bring a group of individuals together to listen, discuss, learn, and pass knowledge along to their constituents. On October 6, 2015, such an opportunity was presented at The University of Texas School of Law Tarlton Law Library/Jamail Center for Legal Research. The session, Trends in Librarianship and Library Services, covered three distinct topics: cost-effective legal research, basic business research and an overview of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA).

Led by Andrew Florance (JD SUNY Buffalo Law School, MIS University of Texas at Austin), Free and Low-Cost Legal Research focused on which legal resources to use when money is an issue. Covering research guides, low cost paid sources, free sources, secondary sources, and primary law, this session offered everything from pointers for Googling case law to using government (Congress.gov) and academic resources (Cornell Legal Information Institute) to tips for accessing statutes, treatises, and regulations.

Joe W. Noel (JD University of Michigan, MSLS University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) gave a brief overview of basic business research. Basic business research was broken down into two categories: industry and business research. Covering business research, one word seemed to sum it up best, Yahoo! While Yahoo! can conjure images of obsolescence, such is not the case when it comes to business research. Yahoo Finance offers excellent "basic" company profiles, with current news feeds, financials, statistics, historical data, and links to SEC filings. Free sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau's collection of data from industry, the Dept. of Commerce's National trade data and state export data, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics cover industry research in broad terms, while some private companies like IBISWorld, Marketline Advantage, and Mintel offer comprehensive industry reports with a high price tag attached to them.

Barbara A. Bintliff, (JD & MA University of Washington - Seattle), director of the Tarlton Law Library/Jamail Center for Legal Research, provided an Overview of UELMA and authentication. With the increasing reliance of online information, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act is meant to address the issue of ensuring that online state legal material is official, unaltered, available to the public, and preserved.

At the close of the session, conference attendees were treated to refreshments and a tour of the Tarlton Law Library/ Jamail Center for Legal Research.
Social Media in a Legislative Environment

Kristin Ford, Idaho Legislative Library

A great finale to the conference was a joint session on social media and the legislative work environment. This lively program was presented by LRL’s own Eddie Weeks (Tenn.) and Jon Heining, General Counsel for the Texas Legislative Council. A friendly, and often comedic, rivalry permeated the presentation between these Alabama and Auburn alumni! Eddie reviewed instances of social media mistakes through oversharing, typos, liking the wrong post, deliberate mistruths and messages that have morphed until the original message has been completely lost. As legislative employees, have we lost the right to have, or just express, opinions? Jon agreed that we have a First Amendment right to speak, but not to keep our jobs! He recommended looking at model codes of conduct for legislative staff, federal and state confidentiality laws, and plain ol’ self-preservation. He stressed the importance of having strong passwords, making sure your work data storage and transport is secure (no coffeehouse Wi-Fi!) and of holding in-office training for employees of appropriate use of social media, including discussions of bad examples. In developing your own social media strategy, consider the long game when it comes to your career; decide what you are going to share and stick to that (don’t use social media when you are tired!), understand how social media applications work and, finally, go ogle yourself. OOPS! GOOGLE YOURSELF.

Bill Analysis: Tried and True and What's New

Melanie Harshman, Texas Legislative Reference Library

Michael Gallagher, legislative attorney with the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, reviewed the various bills and resolutions requiring bill analysis in Wisconsin (see Wisconsin Bill Drafting Manual 2015-2016, Section 4.03) and discussed how the courts use bill analysis in legislative intent. In one interesting case, the Wisconsin Supreme Court relied on the analysis of a bill that was not enacted as a guide to interpreting a similar provision enacted in the biennial budget act. County of Dane v. Racine County, 118 Wis. 2d 494, 499-501 (Ct. App. 1984).

Gallagher also noted Aristotle's principle of non-contradiction applies to writing bill analyses: how to be boring and not boring at the same time. Tips for writing bill analyses that won't "bore readers to death" include:

- Place the most important information first.
- Use active voice.
- Start with a crisp topic sentence.
- Write it sooner rather than later.
- Avoid the "formless mass."
- Assume no one will read the actual bill.

Carey Eskridge, Policy Research Manager/Bill Analysis Coordinator with the Texas Legislative Council, discussed the required content of bill analyses under Texas House of Representatives, House Rule 4, Section 32(c). He explained the technical writing style and the tight time-frame of bill analyses. From Feb. 22 to May 6, 2015, TLC produced over 4,100 bill analyses. Next session, the TLC's bill analysis operations will be all paperless.

In an interesting question to consider for legislative librarians and legislative history researchers, both presenters discussed the purpose of bill analyses at the point they are written. The Wisconsin Bill Drafting Manual 2015-2016, Section 4.03, states, "Do not explain the need for the proposal in the analysis. Let the proponents do that at the public hearing or during the floor debate." The Texas Legislative Council bill analyses include background and purpose that may contain an author's statement about the legislation, and a description of the circumstances that prompted the filing of the bill, written without specificity.

The Case of the Errant Comma: A Trilogy of Comma Mysteries

Melanie Harshman, Texas Legislative Reference Library

Jennifer Gilroy, statute revisor, Colorado, presented a fascinating Nancy Drew-style detective story of punctuation in three cases: a parking ordinance in the Village of West Jefferson, Colorado; a $2,000,000 contract and finally, an errant comma in the definition of marijuana in Colorado. The story begins with Colorado Revised Statutes § 18-18-102(18), the definition of marijuana. An errant comma mysteriously appeared in 2010 in between "oil" and "or cake," thereby eliminating marijuana hash oil from the definition of marijuana in the criminal code.

(18) "Marijuana" means all parts of the plant cannabis sativa L., whether growing or not, the seeds thereof, the resin extracted from any part of the plant, and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or
preparation of the plant, its seeds, or its resin. \textit{It does not include fiber produced from the stalks, oil, or cake made from the seeds of the plant, or sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination if these items exist apart from any other item defined as "marijuana" in this subsection (18). "Marijuana" does not include marijuana concentrate as defined in subsection (19) of this section.}

The Colorado Statute Revisor's office traced this comma through "grey books" that track code changes and there was no evidence of the addition of the comma in 2010-2011. Then, with Colorado Amendment 64 in 2012, legalizing possession and use of recreational marijuana, the definition of marijuana was copied directly into C.R.S. §18-18-102 (18), thus enshrining the comma in the Colorado Constitution, Article XVIII, §16.

Two marijuana cases are currently making their way through the legal system in Colorado, and in \textit{People v. Mannaioni}, Denver District Court Case No. 14 CR 3398, the judge looked at the intent of the law and found "no indication that the legislatur intended to fundamentally alter the meaning of the definitional exclusion by the insertion of the additional, and likely wayward, punctuation." Colorado has since passed a new law making it clear that extraction of marijuana concentrate is included in the definition of marijuana (C.R.S. §18-18-406.6).

Gilroy's conclusion: be careful when copying other states' laws or constitutional amendments. She advised bill drafting attorneys to listen to this cautionary tale and \textit{not} to copy Colorado's marijuana statute!

\textbf{Effective Communication with Legislators and Staff}

\textit{Melanie Harshman, Texas Legislative Reference Library}

Ken Levine, director of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, and Cindy Ellison, senior research associate with the Texas Legislative Council, discussed communication techniques to understand what your legislator really wants. The discussion centered on in-person testimony in committee hearings, member briefings, and individual meetings with legislators, but there were useful takeaways for legislative librarians as well.

Communication tips to keep in mind:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Know your audience's preferred communication method; for example, in Texas, the Sunset Commission does not use PowerPoint because the Legislature does not like it.
  \item Keep attention and eye contact with your audience, relax and don't read. Remember your pace.
  \item Use language conveying you are nonpartisan.
  \item Know your sources are rock-solid.
  \item Body language should show humility.
  \item "Smile inside" when you are in a difficult situation or you are on the receiving end of angry or hard questions.
  \item Always end with a summary of everything you committed to do, and when the information will be delivered.
\end{itemize}

Phrases to avoid in written communication or oral testimony:

\begin{itemize}
  \item "I think" (if you don't know for sure, offer to get back to a member at a date and time certain)
  \item "Like I said" (avoid the tendency to "speak down" to committee members when you have subject expertise)
  \item "We" (you don't want to indicate you are part of a committee or speaking for an entity)
\end{itemize}

Question to ask in refining research or information requests:

\begin{itemize}
  \item What will the information be used for?
  \item Is there a bill related to this request?
  \item What circumstances led you to request this information?
  \item What is your preferred format for delivery?
  \item Who is the audience for this information?
\end{itemize}

Ideas regarding communication with legislative staff:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Legislative staff are under pressure and need resources, so be one; be a friend.
  \item Always assume staff speak for their member; even with so-called "Junior Senator" syndrome, still always treat staff with respect.
  \item Don't worry about who gets the credit.
\end{itemize}
State News

The State News questions for this issue are:

1). The first question is a two-parter …

a). “With the listserv question about ‘sine die’ from Maine, we got to wondering about other quirks of each state’s legislative terminology. Is there any terminology that your state uses that people find particularly confusing or unusual?” For example, “rat” might mean “ratification,” or it might mean “eleventh-hour amendment of questionable relevance to the underlying bill.”

b). “If your state has an online glossary of terms, please provide a link.” (Connecticut has glossaries for Terms & Definitions and Abbreviations & Acronyms that you may find interesting.)

2). “What are the most popular non-state-specific resources in your library? These resources could be books, serials, databases … anything!”

Atlantic Northern Region
Christine McCluskey, Regional Director

Maine—John Barden
Here in Maine we wonder if others understand the term “horseblanket.” This was used in prior years to describe a large-sheet advance draft of the Legislative Record (floor debate), which was compiled and released within a day or two after each session. After the session, it was republished in a more traditional book format. I guess it was as large as a “horseblanket,” so the name fit.

Although the “horseblanket” went out in the 1970s, some of our older legislators still refer to the Legislative Record advance copies (now 8 ½ x 11) by that name. One of our librarians photographed one of our rare surviving copies of a horseblanket for our Facebook page. Check out our timeline under Sept. 3 for some photos, with more photos on the photos page.

Atlantic Central Region
Annette Haldeman, Regional Director

Maryland—Annette Haldeman

1. Here in Maryland, we have “Legislative Lingo”: We use a term here that doesn’t appear on this list, and that is what is known as a “red-headed Eskimo.” Basically, it is a bill that is seemingly written quite broadly but it actually really just applies to one specific situation.

Apparentely it was an old term used on Capitol Hill, but it was mentioned in this 2010 article about a set of pension bills in Maryland.

A term from the list that we use is the “Green Bag Appointments,” which are defined as: Proposed gubernatorial appointments, requiring legislative approval, are submitted to the General Assembly by the 40th day of the session (Art. II, Sec. 13, MD Constitution). The appointments are delivered to the floor of the chambers in a green bag. According to an announcement from the Governor’s website, “Dating back to 17th-century England, the term “Green Bag” refers to the green satchel that is used once every year to bring the gubernatorial nominations to the Senate. It is a longstanding tradition for a member of the governor’s staff to deliver the bag once a year to the Maryland State Senate.”

2. Westlaw

Pennsylvania—Evelyn Andrews
Nothing for #1…and for #2 I’d say…Lexis/Westlaw, Wikipedia and PA-specific websites.

North Carolina—Julia Covington
Question 1: In North Carolina we use an unusual and colorful term to refer to a friendly amendment that’s actually intended to kill a bill. A “Catfish Amendment” weighs a bill down and makes it so undesirable that it’s unable to pass. Then the bill, like a catfish that sinks to the bottom and feeds in the muck, eventually dies. I believe this term is also used in Congress. Here are links to a couple of glossaries that we post on the NCGA website: NCGA Glossary of Legislative Terms: NC Legislative Library Glossary of Legislative Terms.

Question 2: Our two most popular non-state-specific resources are: Black’s Law Dictionary and West’s Nutshell Series.

South Carolina—Kim Adams
Question 1: “mutatis mutandis”- once the changes have been made “that dog won’t hunt”- referring to a bill or amendment that the legislators think won’t work or isn’t a good idea And we call the meeting room in between the two chambers the “cookie room.”

We do not have an online glossary of terms.
Gulf Coast Region
Elisa Naquin, Regional Director

Alabama–Helen Hanby
Alabama uses sine die also, but I can’t think of any other terms that we use that might be confusing to the general public. The most used non-state specific resource would probably be Westlaw.

Louisiana–Frances Thomas, Robyn Cockerham, and Elisa Naquin
We have a number of these kinds of terms in Louisiana. Some which are still frequently used are “snake,” “rookie-do,” “hitchhiker,” and “Bruneau Box” (see Orientation Guide glossary below for definitions).

Legislative glossary
Legislative glossary from Member Orientation Guide (includes informal/slang terms).


Tennessee–Eddie Weeks
Tennessee uses P1C and P2C for passed first/second consideration; I usually answer that one once a week during session. We’re also a ‘companion bill’ state, which I’ve had to explain a few times. “Legislative History” in TN is also unusual; we don’t have written statements of intent, so legislative history means the recordings of what was said on the floor or in committee.

Do you have an online glossary: Yep.

Resources: Westlaw and Lexis by far.

Great Lakes Region
Anne Rottmann, Regional Director

Missouri–Anne Rottmann
The Missouri House has a motion that they call “tongue in cheek” Members are not allowed to make negative motions, so they move for adoption of something knowing full well that they do not want it to pass.

Here is a link to a “glossary of terms” from the House website. http://www.house.mo.gov/content.aspx?info=/info/glossary.htm

Here is a link to the “glossary of terms” from the Senate website. http://www.senate.mo.gov/glossary.htm

As far as popular non-state specific resources, I would have to say we use Lexis-Nexis, Google Scholar and the package of databases subscribed to by our State library and available to state employees.

Ohio–Debbie Tavenner
Here is the Ohio Legislative Service Commission prepared glossary of terms: http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/glossary/glossary.pdf

Here is a glossary from the General Assembly’s website https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/publications/glossary-of-terms

As for unusual terms, I will go with Redbook and Greenbook. The Redbook analyzes the Governor’s proposed budget by agency and the Greenbook analyzes the enacted budget. Here’s a link to the descriptions. Not as interesting as RAT, but at least I can contribute something. http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/budgetuserguides/redbooksandgreenbooks.pdf

Wisconsin–Pat Reichert
I couldn’t think of any terminology unique to Wisconsin but I don’t staff the reference desk. I asked the research analysts and these are their suggestions for legislative terminology that often confuses the general public or first time user of LRB services.

Question 1, part 1: The phrase “Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1” may be unique to Wisconsin. SJR1 sets up the biennial floorperiod schedule so if a bill doesn’t pass by the last scheduled floorperiod, it is dead. Other terms that frequently require explanation: “Adjournment,” “In session,” “Executive action taken,” “Rules suspended.”

Question 2: Our go to, non-state-specific resource is BadgerLink, Wisconsin’s online library made up of various databases, such as Ebsco databases and a newspaper archive. The contract is negotiated by the Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction. Schools are the target audience but any Wisconsin resident, agency, or business can access it. It is not available outside of Wisconsin – unless you have a Wisconsin public library card.

Central Northern Region
RoseMarie London, Regional Director

Wyoming – RoseMarie London
Wyoming has some unique terms: Engrolled: an Engrolled bill, used in place of a substitute bill on rare occasions and usually created at the request of leadership, includes all amendments engrossed into the bill that were passed by one body to better determine the effects of the final version of the bill before a vote.

Bringer: a phrase meant to bring levity to the discussion, the bringer of a bill is also considered the sponsor.

Home cooking: a term to describe when the legislature looks at and adopts a “model act” such as in the area of corporate law or insurance law and modifies certain aspects to fit Wyoming.

Wyoming’s glossary of terms: http://legisweb.state.wy.us/LSOWEB/glossary.aspx

Central Southern Region
Molly Otto, Regional Director

Colorado – Molly Otto
Our unique terminology: The state ballot information booklet which is mailed to Colorado registered voters is commonly referred to as the "Blue Book", because the cover of the booklet is always blue. The legislative directory is referred to as the "Pink Book", because it is printed on pink paper. Link to legislative terms

The most popular non-state-specific resources in our library are the Colorado atlas, Black's Law Dictionary and Robert's Rules of Order.

West Coast Region
Danielle Mayabb, Regional Director

California – Maeve Roche
Question 1: I cannot think of any unusual terms that we use here in California

California’s Legislature – Appendix – Glossary of Terms
Question 2: Our Braille and Talking Book Library would probably fit the bill for non-state-specific resources.

Nevada – Teresa Wilt, Jan Wolfley, and Danielle Mayabb
Question 1: No strange official terminology. However, there are a couple of terms that have been used in the context of the Legislature that are a smidge unusual – legislative time, legislative day v. calendar day, the dark side, cover the clock.

Question 2: The State Rankings books and the State Stats database (Sage); CSG’s Book of the States; Westlaw; Roughing It (Mark Twain); Abilene Paradox (video; although no longer in our collection, Research’s Administration, in the past, strongly recommended the staff view this video)

Photo Credits

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