Chair’s Column:

Changing Seasons, Changing Times!

By Sonia Gavin, LRL Chair 2014-2015
Legislative Information Resources Manager
Legislative Services Division, Montana Legislature

Spring is here! It’s my favorite season as everything turns green again, flowers bloom, and the days are (usually) longer and warmer. For many of us it also means our legislative sessions are winding down.

In Montana, session starts in January, when it is cold and snowy, and you go to work and leave work in the dark. Then, one day you leave the Capitol, the sun is shining, the snow is gone and you realize that before you know it, session will be over. Since our Montana session takes place during the winter, we all say that we may just as well be working since it is cold and dark outside.

As the season changes, I reflect on new challenges and projects for all of us. Social media continues to grow and become a useful tool for the legislature. From noticing meetings to noticing changes to important legislation, social media has become the way many get their news and information about current events, as well as a way to stay in touch with friends and family. Other sites such as Pinterest and Flickr provide a platform for sharing photographs and ideas.

Reference services have also changed with the times. Many academic and public libraries offer digital reference service, including reference via text messages and online real time chat. In a state with such a large geographic area, having the ability to email a response to a research request rather than snail mail expedites the process.

For an individual who wants to provide information to a committee that is hearing a bill but cannot take the time to drive across the state, having the ability to email information is invaluable and allows for greater participation in the legislative process.

Spring will fly by, and, before we know it, summer will be here. We are planning exciting sessions and tours for the annual NCSL Legislative Summit to be held in Seattle, Aug. 2–6.

And the LRL will be joining the research and legal staff sections for our professional development seminar Oct. 4-7, at the AT&T Executive Conference Center, Austin, Texas. I hope to see you at one of these events.

Sonia
LRL Survey: Inquiring Minds Want to Know!

Our intrepid LRL Library Survey Committee members Kristin Ford, Molly Otto, Julia Covington and Catherine Wusterhausen spent the winter months whittling the list of survey questions down to a mere 40 and launched the 2015 LRL Library Survey on March 3. So far, we’ve had responses from 25 states and Puerto Rico but we really need to hear from every state if we are to reach our goal of creating a database on library services and policies.

If you haven’t yet completed the survey, please go to https://survey.ncsl.org/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=p2003m6 and tell us about your library. The survey should take less than half an hour to complete and we’re asking for only one response per library. Below are the questions, to help you prepare to respond.

1. Name of Person Answering Survey:
2. Date of survey response:
3. Please select your state or territory:
4. Library Name and Address:
5. Is your library located in the Capitol building?
6. Library Hours of Operation:
7. To which office, agency or division does your library report?
8. Please check if your organization is: Partisan or Nonpartisan
9. Please insert the number of people who work in your library, by job title/category, as full-time, part-time, or session only staff.
10. Does your library offer internships?
11. Please indicate sources of library funding:
12. Please check the library services you provide for each category of user:
13. Please list any additional services your library provides:
14. If you charge for services, please describe the service and cost:
15. Do you keep statistics on the services you provide for users?
16. Please estimate the number of items in your collection:
17. Do you have formal library policies on the following issues? (Disaster Mitigation and Recovery, Retention and Archiving Schedule, Library Acquisitions)
18. For what types of documents does your library have management responsibility? (Public legislative documents, internal or non-public legislative documents, state documents repository collection, federal documents repository collection)
19. Do you track reports or studies that are mandated by the legislature?
20. Do you track board and commission appointments?
21. Please indicate the preservation methods you use for the formats listed below:
22. List other materials being preserved or other preservation methods used in your library:
23. Is your library involved in any ongoing scanning/digitization projects?
24. Please indicate the electronic databases to which your library subscribes:
25. If you have a cataloged collection, either internally or online, which classification scheme do you use?
26. Which subject heading authority list does your library use?
27. Please indicate who has access to your catalog:
28. If your catalog is available online to the public, please provide the web address:
29. Do you use OCLC or other shared cataloging?
30. Do you participate in a consortium for these services?
31. Have you implemented the RDA cataloging standard?
32. For functions that are automated, what commercial or in-house product/program do you use for the following:
33. Who is responsible for designing the library's website?
34. Who maintains and updates the library's website?
35. Does the library contribute to the information on the legislature's main web site?
36. On average, how much time do you or your library staff spend per month maintaining your library web site?
37. Where are the following legislative publications or products available online?
38. Have any of your current library employees ever attended the following? (NCSL Summit or LRL PDS)
39. In what ways have you or your current library staff participated in LRL?
40. In what other professional organizations do your library staff participate?
LRL 2015 Notable Documents Awards

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2015
By Elizabeth Lincoln, Minnesota

The annual Notable Documents Awards are presented by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section.

The award was established in 1998 to recognize excellence in state documents that explore contemporary topics of interest to legislators and staff and present substantive material in an outstanding format.

Many states are not represented in the nominations, as we typically receive nominations from twenty or fewer states. Be sure your state is represented in the nominations this year!

Nominations are due June 1, 2015 and there is a simple form to fill out to submit a document. The committee reviews each document and uses a scorecard to rate each one. Visit the LRL home page for more information.

The purpose of the awards 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.

Visit the LRL home page to see the guidelines for selection and a list of previous winners.

Nominations are due Monday, June 1, 2015. Watch for a reminder and a nomination form on the NCSL LRL listserv soon.

Contact Elizabeth Lincoln at elincoln@lrl.leg.mn or Jeanne Mejeur at jeanne.mejeur@ncsl.org if you have questions.

2015 LRL Elections

Interested in becoming more involved with LRL? The 2015 LRL Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates to run for Secretary. The deadline for declaring your candidacy is Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

Sabah Eltareb of California serves as the chair of this year’s Nominating Committee, with committee members Jennifer Bernier of Connecticut and John Barden of Maine.

The Secretary serves for one year and then automatically moves up for one-year terms as vice-chair, chair and immediate past chair, so it’s a four-year commitment overall.

Under the LRL Bylaws, the role of the secretary is as follows: “The secretary shall serve a one year term and shall record minutes of all staff section meetings and perform additional duties as may be assigned by the chair. The secretary shall preside at LRL Executive Committee and staff section meetings in the absence of both the chair and vice chair. The secretary shall succeed the following year to the office of vice chair."

For questions or more information, please contact Nominating Committee chair Sabah Eltareb at 916-653-8532 or LRL liaison Jeanne Mejeur at 303-856-1467.

Mark your calendars for the 2015 NCSL Legislative Summit. LRL is planning programs and tours, plus our annual Dutch Treat Dinner. Don’t miss this opportunity to network with your fellow librarians!
LRL Newsline • Spring 2015

LSCC Report—Winter Meeting

LRL is fortunate to have three of our members serving on the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC), the legislative staff governing body that serves with the NCSL Executive Committee.

The two top officers from each staff section are automatically members of the LSCC. Chair Sonia Gavin and vice-chair Jennifer Bernier represent LRL, along with immediate past chair Sabah Eltareb, who was appointed to the LSCC by NCSL staff chair Peggy Piety.

Below are reports from the LSCC subcommittees on which Sonia, Jennifer and Sabah serve.

Programs, Professional Development & Outreach (Sabah)

The Programs, Professional Development & Outreach Committee members have been tasked with a couple of issues that we had the opportunity to discuss in person at the LSCC winter meeting in New Orleans Jan. 9-10: 1.) Identifying two speaker candidates for the staff programs at the 2015 NCSL Summit; 2.) The NCSL Statehouse Ambassadors Program and 3.) The Legislative Staff Management Institute.

- For the last few months, committee members have been sharing speaker candidate suggestions with each other via email. We reviewed the compiled list of candidates and discussed merits in order to winnow the list of nine strong candidates down to two. NCSL staff will reach out to them to initiate and confirm availability for the Summit.

- There have been some questions about the NCSL Statehouse Ambassadors Program, with concerns about the uneven nature of representation among the states, how effective it is and whether the need for the program remains. At the meeting, we discussed the need to touch base with NCSL staff assigned as designated liaisons with a simple three-question survey to elicit feedback from those most closely affected. Findings will guide future steps.

- There was a presentation about the Legislative Staff Management Institute, the eight-day program for legislative staff to develop their legislative and leadership skills, with a report sharing highlights of its successes over the years and its funding breakdown. The committee voted unanimously to recommend continued support for the program.

Technology (Jennifer)

The LSCC’s Technology committee has been focusing on ensuring all staff sections know that podcasts and webinars are available as a staff training tool and that NCSL has set aside resources to help them. The group is also looking to encourage staff sections to record sessions at the Summit, Fall Forum, and staff section meetings. The subcommittee I am assigned to is looking at a way to index and organize the NCSL webinars. Preliminary steps have been taken by NCSL staff to organize the webinars by title, issue and topic (think NSCL staff issue areas) and sponsoring NCSL section. Further recommendations include: organizing the webinars by both the anticipated webinar audience (ex.: a legal research webinar sponsored by the LRL as also having an audience of the legal and research staff sections).

Staff Section Officers (Sonia)

While at the Winter LSCC meeting, I attended the staff section officers’ meeting. Highlights include:

- A database of speakers from Summit and Professional Development Seminars that would be internal to NCSL so we have a record of individuals that we want to have as return speakers.

- A PDS spreadsheet showing projected locations of each staff section’s upcoming seminars. This also included a discussion of encouraging groups to have joint sessions and encouraging faculty from other staff sections as presenters.

- Strategies for recruiting staff to step up to leadership roles in NCSL. On a related note, we discussed how to attract people to the legislature as a career.

Legislative Institutions (Sonia)

I also attended the Legislative Institutions subcommittee. Much of the discussion centered on how we tell the story of the legislative institution to the public. Other issues discussed were trends affecting the legislature, not only in terms of attracting staff but legislators as well, mentoring programs, producing more quick clips for the NCSL website, and encouraging staff participation.

Did You Know?

The NCSL Executive Committee is composed of 63 members: seven officers, 30 at-large legislators, four regional legislators from the Council of State Government, six ex officio members, and 16 legislative staff.

The LSCC is made up of the NCSL staff officers, legislative staff serving 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 appointees.
Library Profile: Texas Legislative Reference Library

By Catherine Wusterhausen and Adrienne Sonder

The Legislative Reference Library of Texas is an independent, nonpartisan agency in the legislative branch of government. Established as a separate agency in 1969, the Library is housed in the historic capitol building in downtown Austin. The space has been beautifully restored to preserve historic charm while providing all the modern conveniences, including wireless web access.

Our holdings include a tightly focused collection of political and social science titles, an extensive collection of state agency publications and a legal research collection. A second location houses the library's clipping service, scanning operations and collection of original bill files for all legislative sessions since 1973.

When the Texas Constitution was adopted in 1876, Texans considered lawmaking a part-time business, and decreed that the Legislature meet biennially. One hundred and thirty-nine years later, the Texas Legislature still meets in regular session for 140 days every odd-numbered year.

During session, the volume of reference questions the library receives increases, as does their complexity. To accommodate the work of the Legislature, the library extends its operating hours to 7 p.m. and remains open past this hour if either chamber is convened.

We offer support in many capacities. Several of our staff members enter bill actions as they occur on the floor of the House and Senate into the capitol-wide legislative information system, which feeds information to the public Texas Legislature Online web site. The library also maintains a toll-free bill status hotline, which remains a popular tool for Texans wanting up-to-the-minute information about pending legislation.

When not researching questions, the reference librarians maintain the Index to Sections Affected database, indexing every version of every bill for its proposed statutory effect. This heavily used system is an essential tool for legislative research. Librarians also assist with the identification of companion bills as well as the subject indexing of bills, activities which require a careful examination of each and every piece of legislation filed. With more than 4,800 bills introduced so far for the 84th Legislature, we are looking forward to a busy and challenging session.

Although the legislature meets in regular session for only 140 days, the work of the Legislature continues year-round, with the interim between legislative sessions filled with committee hearings and constituent service.

During the interim, many of our projects focus on recapturing the history of the Texas Legislature and making it available online. Not long ago, answering simple questions about a member's term of service or committee membership required consulting a card file and stacks of books; more complicated questions might require days or weeks of intricate research. Over the past several years, we have built databases to store detailed information on specialized topics such as vetoes and constitutional amendments. As part of the project, we collect and scan original documents.

Our biggest project is the Legislative Archive System, a major tool for researching legislative history and intent. The system provides access to copies of scanned bill files, and, to date, contains files from 1939 through 2003. Bills are also linked to related documents, including articles, reports, and committee documents. Once scanned, bill files are available in the system and are immediately searchable by bill number. Library staff then bookmark individual documents within each file and add searchable information such as the bill captions, authors, subjects and actions.

While the library remains a popular destination for researchers and tourists alike, many of our services are provided electronically. We have several current awareness services, including a daily newspaper clipping service, a weekly current articles list, a Twitter feed and a blog.

Since many Texas newspapers do not provide historical indexes, the clipping service archive is a favorite, and often crucial, tool for background research, allowing capitol staff to search by subject, headline or author for articles back to 1901. In recent years, each article in the clips has also been linked to any bills or reports mentioned in the article. This valuable service makes it simple to locate a list of articles about a bill or to provide a copy of reports and studies referred to (often vaguely) in articles.

Whether in session or out, the librarians and administrative staffers of the Legislative Reference Library of Texas are always ready to assist legislative members, legislative staffers, and the public with research and legislative information.
2015 LRL Fall Seminar

Oct. 4-7, 2015  LRL  Austin, Texas

Mark your calendars! This year’s LRL Professional Development Seminar is being held in Austin, Texas, Oct. 4-7, 2015.

This is your opportunity to see the operations of the Texas Legislative Reference Library in action and meet the staff who provide outstanding services to the Texas Legislature!

The seminar is a joint meeting with LRL, the Research and Committee Staff Section (RACSS) and the Legal Services Staff Section (LSSS). LRL, RACSS and LSSS have partnered on seminars twice in the past, with meetings that brought together the key professional support staff for legislatures.

The three staff sections will share some plenary programs and joint social events, but each group will also have their own meeting tracks.

For LRL attendees, there will be programs of special interest to librarians, tours of library facilities and opportunities to network with fellow LRL members.

Look for more PDS information in the coming months!

What LRL Means to Me

LRL chair Sonia Gavin asked several LRL members to share how their experiences with the staff section have been meaningful or helped them in their work. Below are articles from Claire Marumoto, Elisa Naquin and Molly Otto.

LRL: A Sense of Community

By Claire Marumoto, Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau Library

In my many years as a legislative librarian, LRL has given me a heartening sense of community with colleagues spanning a continent half an ocean away. I look forward to reading about fellow LRLers and their libraries in Newsline. It keeps me updated as an inspiring source of professional information, though of more personal pleasure is reading about librarians I have come to know.

In 2007 I attended my first PDS, in Santa Fe. I enjoyed meeting my mainland counterparts, especially putting faces to names I had become familiar with over the years from Newsline. It was reassuring to know how much our libraries had in common and interesting to learn of differences and unique features of other libraries.

My first evening in Santa Fe, Tracey Kimball met me in the town square where a food festival was happening. It was a wonderful intro to the town and to Tracey, and visiting “her” library was a high point of the PDS.

In 2009 I learned through LRL about a study tour of libraries and archives in Berlin, and I was privileged to join it. Held in early October, the tour coincided with festivities commemorating the 19th anniversary of German reunification and the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall.

It was an eye-opening eight days of visiting libraries and research sites both in Berlin and beyond. Especially memorable were touring the Bundestag and its library, the Stasi archives and the Berlin State Library (particularly to fans of “Wings of Desire”).

Last summer’s Minneapolis Summit was the first I attended in years. Within the awesome panoply of sessions and attendees, I was glad to have our LRL niche, expertly guided by Jeanne Mejeur.

I feel LRL provides a vibrant and invaluable forum for sharing varied experiences and connecting with other legislative librarians as professionals and friends.

The Texas State Capitol.
LRL: Many Resources, Many Benefits

By Elisa Naquin, David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, Louisiana

I have been a member of LRL since October of 2012, when I started working as a librarian for the Louisiana House of Representatives. I’ve been involved in one way or another since then, having attended a PDS and served as a Regional Director, as well as taking advantage of some of the resources LRL has to offer.

The PDS I attended last October is the first thing which comes to mind when I think about involvement in LRL. This was a great learning opportunity as well as a chance to meet other legislative librarians. I particularly enjoyed learning about legislative libraries in other states, and it was interesting to see the extent to which what we do and the issues we deal with are the same from state to state.

Additionally, I learned some things about the law and government of my own state. Before the PDS, I didn’t know much about the history of the Louisiana Civil Code, which I found fascinating to learn about. I also gained a deeper appreciation of the history of our constitution, as well as the breadth of the work which goes into preparing the state for emergencies. At the end of the PDS, I found myself with a renewed excitement for my work and an eagerness to learn more.

While the PDS was a rewarding experience, my day-to-day LRL involvement has been equally beneficial. For me, it’s been especially useful to realize that other legislative libraries can be a place to turn for information from other states which I can’t find on my own. The listserv and Member Directory have been a great help in these situations, connecting me with librarians who were happy to help me find what I needed and to share their expertise.

LRL has also provided easy and fun ways to contribute outside my regular work environment. As a Regional Director, I am able to help gather information for inclusion in Newsline. I also compile our library’s monthly list of acquisitions for publication on the LRL website.

Despite the fact that I am not a natural “joiner,” I have found participating in LRL to be simple, enjoyable, and beneficial to my work. I’m sure anyone looking to become more involved—or even someone who isn’t—would find it to be a worthwhile experience.

LRL: A Valuable Resource for All Members

By Molly Otto, Manager of Library Services, Colorado Joint Legislative Library

I have been the legislative librarian for the Colorado General Assembly since December of 2000. The Joint Legislative Library is part of the Legislative Council Staff, which is the nonpartisan research staff for the Colorado General Assembly. The library serves members of the legislature, legislative staff, local, state and national governmental agencies, and members of the public. The library is open during the session and the interim.

I have participated in the Legislative Research Librarian (LRL) Staff Section since 2000 in a variety of capacities. I have posted inquiries and responded to questions on the listserv, volunteered on subcommittees, attended NCSL and LRL events, was a presenter at the 2007 PDS in Santa Fe, and am currently serving as the Regional Director for the Central Southern region. I am always impressed by the knowledge and generosity of my fellow legislative librarians and NCSL, whenever I interact with them personally or virtually.

One of my earliest interactions with the LRL Staff Section was when I posted my first question to the listserv about cataloging methods, classification schemes, OCLC, etc. I posted the inquiry, since our cataloging system at that time was a "homegrown" system which was no longer practical or effective, so we needed to re-classify the collection. The responses from the other legislative librarians were helpful, welcoming and reassuring. As a result of the recommendation from most of the other legislative librarians, the collection was weeded and re-classified according to LC guidelines.

I have volunteered on several LRL subcommittees, where I have met and communicated with other committee members via e-mail and teleconferencing. I worked on the committee to revise the CORE reference collection in 2005, the committee to revise the LRL bylaws in 2012 and the recent survey development subcommittee from 2014-15. I enjoyed working with a variety of my colleagues on these projects.
Our focus for this issue of the State News is social media. Below are the questions posed by our Regional Directors.

1. Does your library use Social media?
2. What sites do you use?
3. Do you have a policy?
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task?
5. Any other information about your Social media.

Atlantic Northern Region

Regional Director: Christine McCluskey, Connecticut

Vermont–Michael Chernick, Vermont Legislative Council

1. Does your library use social media? As a library or office, no.
2. What sites do you use? In my work, I am on occasion referred to a Facebook page and I have referenced Twitter feeds for research purposes.
3. Do you have a policy? Not at this time. There is no policy on office use of social media.
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? No office social media sites. Just a webpage that was revamped this past fall.

Rhode Island–Thomas R. Evans, Rhode Island State Library

The Rhode Island State Library itself does not use social media. We are a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, and our access to social media is through the accounts created for Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea. The Secretary currently uses Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. All of the social media matters are handled by the Secretary's Director of Communications. The various divisions of our Office provide content to the Communications Director.

Vermont–Paul Donovan, Vermont Dept. of Libraries

1. We do.
2. Facebook. Like us! And Twitter @ VermontLib Follow us!
3. We do have a policy.
4. We update Facebook at least once a day. We are a bit less conscientious with Twitter. There are three staff members who share the responsibility.
New Hampshire—Mary S. Searles, The John W. King New Hampshire Law Library
1. Does your library use social media? No
2. What sites do you use? N/A
3. Do you have a policy? N/A
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? N/A

Connecticut—Jennifer Bernier, Carrie Rose, and Christine McCluskey, Connecticut Legislative Library
1. Does your library use social media? No, but the Office of Legislative Research, of which the legislative library is part, is looking into launching a Twitter account.
2. What sites do you use? N/A
3. Do you have a policy? No
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? N/A
5. Further information: The library has considered using social media, but we are concerned about the staff time that would be involved in maintaining an account that stays current.

Atlantic Central Region
Regional Director: Annette Haldeman, Maryland
For the region—Annette Haldeman, Maryland Library and Information Services
Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and South Carolina do not use social media in their legislative libraries. South Carolina’s Legislative Services Agency uses Twitter to post about legislative meetings.
North Carolina has the following to add to member news, though:

We are delighted to announce that we have a new staff member, Anna Dunson. She began in March 2015 as our Boards and Commissions assistant. Anna has a BA in English Language and Literature from Columbus State University and is currently enrolled in an online MLIS program through Valdosta State University. Welcome Anna!

Great Lakes Region
Regional Director: Anne Rottmann, Missouri
Wisconsin—Pat Reichert, Legislative Reference Bureau
Does your library use Social media? The LRB uses social media and the library does contribute

What sites do you use? YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and RSS feeds
Do you have a policy? Nothing formal but all posts are guided by the LRB’s nonpartisan outlook and focuses on the state legislature.
How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? Twitter is updated the most often, almost daily and sometimes several times a day. You Tube is updated when a new oral history or website tutorial is posted; it varies but around 10 per year total. Facebook is updated weekly, sometimes several times a week, but not as often as Twitter. There is one staffer coordinating the posts with contributions from several staffers.

Any other information they would like to share about their social media. Links to the above mentioned social media sites are available on the LRB’s website

Michigan—Bernadette M. Bartlett, Library of Michigan
1. Does your library use Social media? Yes
2. What sites do you use?
   - Facebook - Library of Michigan and Michigan eLibrary (MeL)
   - Twitter (Library of Michigan)
3. Do you have a policy? Under discussion/development
4. How often do you update the sites? Daily
5. How many staff are assigned this task? Seven (with administration rights)
6. Any other information they would like to share about their social media? Assuming it will be better once a policy is in place.

The other states in the region—Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Missouri—do not use social media in their libraries or their parent offices.

Gulf Coast Region
Regional Director: Elisa Naquin, Louisiana
Louisiana—Frances Thomas, David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library
1. Does your library use Social media? The library has a Facebook page. However, we can use social media for research if needed.
2. What sites do you use? Facebook only for an official presence.
3. Do you have a policy? There is no written policy on social media. There is a policy restricting computer usage to actions furthering the work of the legislature. It is not for personal use. In our own private use of social media we are reminded that we are nonpartisan staff and nothing should compromise this in our use of social media, but this is not a written policy.

4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? One staff member, with a back-up staff member. Our use is very limited.

5. Any other information they would like to share about their Social media. Not at this time.

Tennessee–Eddie Weeks, Tennessee Legislative Library
1. Nope.

Arkansas–Christine Heider, Bureau of Legislative Research
The Bureau of Legislative Research library does not use any Social media.

Central Northern Region
Regional Director: Jonetta Douglas, Iowa

Iowa–Jonetta Douglas, Legislative Services Agency
We don’t use any particular type of social media.

Minnesota–Alyssa Novak Jones, Legislative Reference Library
1. Yes, we use social media.
2. We mainly use twitter. Our twitter handle is @MinnLRL. We also have a blog/newsfeed on our website that might fall under a broad definition of social media.
3. Yes, we do have a twitter policy.
4. Tweets are usually composed by the Director or the Head of Reference Services. We do not tweet frequently, maybe a few times a month. We promote new materials the library has acquired if they relate to a hot topic of discussion. We also respond to legislative research/statistics questions that we can provide assistance with.

Montana–Sonia Gavin, Legislative Reference Center
1. Here in Montana, the Legislative Reference Center does not use social media. That being said, the Reference Center is part of the Legislative Communications Office which does use social media.
2. We use Facebook and Twitter, mostly for noticing committee meetings and other items about the legislature, such as a grandfather clock that was purchased by the representative’s wives and is on display in the lobby of the House chambers. We also post interesting events taking place in the Capitol building.
3. We do have two different policies regarding the use of social media. One is part of our employee manual that addresses use of social media while on work time. It also cautions staff, reminding us that we are nonpartisan and to be mindful of who we friend. The other policy is part of the Communications Office.

Policy Summary: The focus of our social media use is aimed at several aspects of information flow between the Legislative Branch and the citizens of Montana. These aspects include but are not limited to access to all public information, opportunities for the public to participate in state government, notices of when and where they are able to do so, updates on current topics being studied and reviewed, notices and updates to time sensitive information/events. The Montana Legislature encourages the use of social media to further the goals of the Legislature and the missions of its divisions, where appropriate.

4. We update the social media at least daily during session, and we have four staff assigned to making sure the information is updated and current. When we are not in session, our social media accounts are updated at least once a week.

Central Southern Region
Regional Director: Molly Otto, Colorado

Colorado–Molly Otto, Joint Legislative Library
1. Does your library use Social media? No.
2. What sites do you use? N/A
3. Do you have a policy? N/A
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? N/A
5. Other information about Social media: Our committee staff uses Twitter, and their posts are professional, concise and informative, since these "tweets" are a matter of public record.

Utah–Shelley Day, Legislative Research Library
1. Does your library use Social media? No
2. What sites do you use? N/A
3. Do you have a policy? The library doesn’t but we have an office policy that encompases the library regarding social media. Social media Policy: Use of social media that materially affects an employee’s ability to have a nonpartisan relationship with legislators or to effectively provide nonpartisan services may adversely affect the employee’s job status and performance evaluations.
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? N/A
Oklahoma–Christine Chen, Cartwright Library, Legislative and Law Reference Division
Our library doesn’t use any social media that I know of.

West Coast Region
Regional Director: Danielle Mayabb, Nevada

Idaho–Kristin Ford, Legislative Reference Library
We don’t really use social media for the library in Idaho. I did start a library Facebook page a couple of years ago, but found pretty quickly that updating it was beyond my interest, so it has languished, I’m afraid. No policy, not updated in at least a year and no assigned staff.

California–Kris Klein, California State Library
1. Does your library use social media? Yes, we definitely use social media.
2. What sites do you use? We have: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr, YouTube, History Pin and offer RSS feeds. All of these can be linked to from our homepage. We also have a LinkedIn page, but that is not updated very often. And a Flickr account—this has not been updated in ages since Facebook, Pinterest, and Tumblr have become an easier way to share photos with a large number of people.
3. Do you have a policy? The communications team is working on a library-wide policy as well as a style guide.
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? We update 2-3 times a week. We have one to two staff assigned as both content providers and back-up.
5. Other information: We are adding a third content stream where we cover a particular county for one month, highlighting material in our collection that promotes that county. I should also mention that the Oregon State Archives is very active participant in social media.

Nevada–Teresa Wilt, Legislative Research Library
That’s an easy one. Unless I’m missing something …

1. No.
2. NA
3. NA
4. NA
5. NA

Oregon–Jerry Curry, Oregon State Library
This is on behalf of the Oregon State Library, which serves our legislative body and all Oregon state agencies.

There is also a very tiny legislative library staffed only during our long session (odd numbered years), by a single staffer who is not a librarian. They basically forward questions over to us. We often staff the legislative library as well, although this year our committee services organization is manning the library. I’ll provide answers, when I can, for both my library and the legislative library.

1. Does your library use social media?
   - Oregon State Library – yes
   - Legislative Library – no, although the legislative body as a whole does, with the ID, Oregon State Capitol
2. What sites do you use?
   - Oregon State Library – Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr
   - Legislative Library – none, but the Oregon State Capitol uses Facebook & Twitter
3. Do you have a policy?
   - Oregon State Library – yes
   - There are general state policies for social media for all executive class agencies. I suspect the Oregon State Legislature, Legislative Administration Committee also has a policy.
4. How often do you update the sites and how many staff are assigned this task? We update 2-3 times a week. We have one to two staff assigned as both content providers and back-up.
5. Other information: We are adding a third content stream where we cover a particular county for one month, highlighting material in our collection that promotes that county. I should also mention that the Oregon State Archives is very active participant in social media.

Calendar Notes
- NCSL Legislative Summit 2015
  Aug. 3-6, 2015
  Seattle, Washington
- NCSL Legislative Summit 2016
  Aug. 8-11, 2016
  Chicago, Illinois (new location)
NCSL Publications

Note: Legislators and legislative staff are entitled to a free copy of all NCSL publications. You will need your NCSL password to download the documents from NCSL. If you don’t have a password, you can create one on NCSL’s website.

LegisBriefs

January 2015

- States Explore Energy Banks as a Financing Tool | Vol. 23, No. 02
- Catching Unlawful School Bus Passers With Cameras | Vol. 23, No. 03
- Supermajority Vote Requirements to Pass the Budget | Vol. 23, No. 04
- State Efforts to Address Child Abuse and Neglect | Vol. 23, No. 01

December 2014

- Methadone and Prescription Drug Overdose | Vol. 22, No. 45
- Workforce Strategies to Improve Children’s Oral Health | Vol. 22, No. 46
- Preserving Passenger Rail Service | Vol. 22, No. 47
- Reducing Lies in Elections | Vol. 22, No. 48

November 2014

- Dental Sealants Can Improve Children’s Oral Health | Vol. 22, No. 41
- Specialty License Plates: Big Revenue or Big Controversy? | Vol. 22, No. 42
- Ensuring Quality in Health Insurance Marketplaces | Vol. 22, No. 43
- Surface Transportation Funding: 2014 Update | Vol. 22, No. 44

Reports

- State Budget Update Fall 2014. Fiscal Affairs Program, NCSL. December 2014
- Projected State Tax Growth in FY 2015. Fiscal Affairs Program, NCSL. October 2014

April 2015

- Next Generation 911 | Vol. 23, No. 14
- Rental Car Taxes | Vol. 23, No. 16
- Reducing the Prevalence and Costs of Heart Disease | Vol. 23, No. 13
- Helping Utilities Invest in Energy Efficiency | Vol. 23, No. 15

March 2015

- Supporting Family Caregivers | Vol. 23, No. 10
- Using Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs to Address Drug Abuse | Vol. 23, No. 12
- Prize-Linked Savings Accounts: Offering Incentives to Save | Vol. 23, No. 09
- State Sales Tax Holidays | Vol. 23, No. 11

February 2015

- Voting System Standards, Testing and Certification | Vol. 23, No. 06
- State Policy Options for Employing People with Disabilities | Vol. 23, No. 07
- Automated License Plate Readers | Vol. 23, No. 08
- To Accept or Not Accept: The Propriety of Honorariums | Vol. 23, No. 05